



Ministry of Defence

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By Email & Post:

18 December 2015

Ref. FOI2015/10342

Dear Sir

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2015, requesting the following information:

- *How many military houses are currently vacant in Shipton Bellinger?*
- *How many military houses in Hampshire and Wiltshire are currently vacant?*
- *How many civilian houses are occupied by military personnel in Shipton Bellinger?*
- *How many civilian houses are occupied by military personnel in Hampshire and Wiltshire?*
- *Were the military houses in Shipton Bellinger purpose built for military use?*
- *Is a civilian able to rent a military house? If not, why not? If yes, how? What are the laws?*
- *Can my family and I rent a military house in Shipton Bellinger?*
- *Is a civilian able to buy a military house in Shipton Bellinger?*
- *Is there a scenario in which a civilian family (i.e. mine) can acquire (or rent) military land (i.e. around Shipton Bellinger) to live and build on for residential purposes?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held. I have addressed each question separately.

How many military houses are currently vacant in Shipton Bellinger?

Four service family accommodation (SFA) houses are currently empty, however, this does not take into account any that may have been offered to Service personnel and their families.

How many military houses in Hampshire and Wiltshire are currently vacant?

Of the 13,562 SFA in Hampshire and Wiltshire, 2,164 are currently vacant, however, this does not take into account any that may have been offered to Service personnel and their families.

How many civilian houses are occupied by military personnel in Shipton Bellinger?

We do not hold this information.

How many civilian houses are occupied by military personnel in Hampshire and Wiltshire?

We do not hold this information.

Were the military houses in Shipton Bellinger purpose built for military use?

The SFA was built to house Service personnel and their families.

Is a civilian able to rent a military house? If not, why not? If yes, how? What are the laws?

SFA is used to house entitled Service Personnel and their families or other MOD staff who may have an eligibility to occupy SFA. Members of the public cannot rent SFA.

Can my family and I rent a military house in Shipton Bellinger?

There is no provision for members of the public to rent SFA which are provided for entitled Service personnel and their families.

Is a civilian able to buy a military house in Shipton Bellinger?

SFA at Shipton Bellinger is owned by Annington Homes Ltd, and leased to the MOD. Should there be no long term requirement for SFA at Shipton Bellinger, then the properties would be returned to Annington Homes Ltd. It would be for the company to decide the future of the properties.

Is there a scenario in which a civilian family (i.e. mine) can acquire (or rent) military land (i.e. around Shipton Bellinger) to live and build on for residential purposes?"

There is no scenario for a civilian to build on military land unless the land had become surplus to defence requirements had been sold on the open market and was now in the ownership of the civilian who had the correct planning permission.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note details about MOD's Interim Land and Property Disposal Strategy and forthcoming surplus property are published in the House of Commons Library, now hosted centrally on Gov.uk as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-infrastructure-interim-land-and-property-disposal-strategy>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-government-property>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disposal-database-house-of-commons-report>

I do hope that this sufficiently answers your query.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact DIO Secretariat in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat