



Ministry  
of Defence

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27 July 2015

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing further to the letter dated 9 June from the Information Rights Team and your response dated 1 July. Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and for ease of reference I have repeated the original request and your subsequent clarification in full:

*“Are there standards, benchmarks or requirements a foreign nation would need to meet in order to be allowed to expand a military base located in the United Kingdom, as for example the United States has at RAF Croughton. What are the criteria against which the MoD assesses these requests for expansion”.*

*“You requested that we clarify what we mean by expansion - whether you mean an increase in terms of the number of personnel on a site, the capabilities available on a site or the physical size of the site. To clarify, we mean all of the above; personnel, capabilities, and size”.*

In response to your request I should firstly clarify that the US is the only foreign nation that retains military bases in the UK.

The US is required to formally notify the Ministry of Defence of any proposals to expand the presence of the US Visiting Forces at any of the bases that are made available for their use. This is done via a well established process known as Host Nation Notification, and each such notification received from the US is considered on a case by case basis. Depending on the nature of the request the Ministry of Defence will take into account a number of factors and these include: benefits to the Department and to the wider UK/US defence relationship; that the proposed use of a specified base is compliant with UK law; any implications for the Department (e.g. personnel, financial, estates, housing, policing and guarding); any environmental implications (e.g. the basing of a new aircraft type in the UK, new use of the Defence Training Estate). Where the construction of new facilities at USVF bases is approved, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation will liaise with UK agencies on behalf of the USVF to ensure compliance with UK planning regulations.

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 me 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

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