



United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Admiralty Way
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2DN

Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337 900

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ukho.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2015/00673

[REDACTED]

28 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2015 requesting the following information:

Could you please provide me with geospatial information and/or the maritime charts of Maritime Military Practice and Exercise Areas (PEXA) in any European Union Country for which you possess the information dating from 1900 to the present. The geospatial information would preferably be in an ESRI ArcGIS Compatible format and the Maritime Charts would be preferred digitized in a high quality format. I request the all PEXA areas should be identified and contain the following information:

- Name of Area
- Type of Practice or Exercise
- Responsible Party
- Area User

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 MOD, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

UKHO holds PEXA data for the UK only, but not in an ArcGIS format. We produce six Thematic charts, Q6401-6405 and Q6407 which accurately depict the PEXA information extant today. The charts were first produced in 1951.

The information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 21 (information reasonably accessible by other means) of the FOI act and has been withheld.

Section 21 has been applied because the charts which contain the information requested are available to purchase from our distributors, details of which can be found via this link - <http://www.admiralty.co.uk/SitePages/Distributors.aspx>. Our distributors can provide current charts only; copies of previous versions of these charts are available to purchase via our Archive. Full details of how to contact the Archive and our fees are available here - <https://www.gov.uk/the-ukho-archive>.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the supply of digital data for non-navigational purposes, for example for use in GIS, CAD and similar systems, is now being handled by companies such as SeaZone or Ocean Wise.

These companies specialise in providing UK Hydrographic Office and other UK and overseas agencies' data to the worldwide geographical information market. In addition, they provide software and data enabling tools, consultancy and training services to support the use of this data. These companies will also be able to arrange any subsequent copyright/licensing for material provided by them that is to be reproduced.

SeaZone E-mail: sales@SeaZone.com Web site: www.SeaZone.com
Ocean Wise E-mail: info@oceanwise.eu Web site: www.oceanwise.eu

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, 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,



Deputy Communications Manager