



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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Ref. FOI2015/10176

14 December 2015

Dear [redacted]

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

"Please see the attached image - the highlighted area of the map is the zone I am referring to. You will note that there are a number of Small Arms Ranges nearby which are associated with the RAF Sealand Camp. For the avoidance of doubt, I am aware that Sealand Ranges are operational and in use by Cadets and shooting clubs, however the focus of this FOI request is the area of land adjacent to Sealand Ranges.

I am advised that this area of land was in use by the RAF during the Second World War as both a practice bombing range and as a decoy intended to confuse Luftwaffe pilots.

Assuming I am correct in my assertion that this MOD-owned land, I would be grateful if, for the purposes of this Freedom of Information request, you would:

- Confirm the exact area of land owned by the MOD within the Dee Estuary region*
- Confirm whether the MOD has ever given permission for any individual or society to carry out non-military related shooting activities on this area of land? For example, duck and/or geese shooting. If this is the case, I would be grateful if you would provide specific details regarding the nature of this provision.*
- Whether, given its former use, this area of land retains any live ordnance, unexploded bombs etc"*

On 13 November 2015 you clarified that:

"In terms of the clarity you seek, I can confirm my FOI request relates to the area of land ADJACENT to Sealand Ranges, and not Sealand Ranges itself."

I am treating your first bullet point as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information you have requested can be found enclosed at Annex A.

I am treating your second two bullet points as requests for information under Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and I can confirm that no information in the scope of your request is held.

We would be happy to advise you that the reason no information is held is because the Ministry of Defence does not own the land adjacent to Sealand Ranges. Further information may be obtained from the National Archives, you can access this online by visiting <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

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