



Ministry of Defence

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2015 in which you raised a number of queries about accommodation at the former Waterbeach Barracks.

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 all of the information in scope of your request is held.

I will deal with each of your queries in turn:

a) Can you list the number and type of accommodation at Waterbeach Barracks which could be used for residential accommodation please? By type I mean the number of 1, 2, 3, 4+ bedroom homes plus blocks suitable for multiple occupancy/hostel type accommodation.

22 houses are located within the former barracks. These houses are a mixture of three and four bed houses.

There are two types of barrack accommodation at Waterbeach: the older H block design and the later modern 3 storey blocks.

The H blocks are 2 storeys and were built in the early 1970's. They comprise single sleeping accommodation with communal baths and some kitchen/ tea making facilities on each floor.

The 3 storey blocks were built in the 1990s with 2 different designs: some of these blocks have open plan sleeping areas with four single bed spaces and some provide four individual bedrooms. All units benefit from a communal shower room with WC together with a separate small kitchen.

These blocks are in varying states of disrepair; therefore it is not possible to say how many people could occupy them.

b) Can you tell me please when this accommodation will be available and whether it will be available to rent or buy?

Of the 22 houses on site, 8 are currently occupied by service families but the MOD is in early discussions with Ermine Street Housing to lease the remaining empty houses so we are hopeful that they will be made available to rent on the open market soon.

The former barracks accommodation requires an amount of work to bring it up to acceptable conditions for occupancy. A full building survey and feasibility for refurbishment is under way. If this is progressed and the accommodation can be brought back into use, it is likely it would be rented or leased on temporary agreements, pending the future development of the site.

It should also be noted that some of the former Single Living Accommodation was converted to office accommodation.

c) Are there any plans to offer any of these homes as affordable housing eg through a local connection scheme?

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I confirm that we do not hold any recorded information in respect of this question.

d) Are there any plans to house refugees or offer priority to ex soldiers who have been stationed at the former Waterbeach Barracks?

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I confirm that we do not hold any recorded information in respect of this question.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat

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>.