



Ministry
of Defence

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// January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our recent email correspondence, I am now in a position to provide a response to your email of 24 January in which you requested the following information:

"Please can you send me by email all completed editions of the lessons for land component campaign study of Operation Herrick undertaken by the army's Land Warfare Centre."

I would like to begin by apologising for the length of time it has taken to answer your request. The Study is a large document that required consultation with many parts of Defence and other Government Departments before it could be released.

Please find attached a disc containing copy of the HERRICK Campaign Study published by the Land Warfare Centre in March 2015. The document is password protected, so please email me at the above address so that I can send you the password. In line with Departmental policy, the study will also be published on the gov.uk website.

Some of the information contained in the Study is exempt from release under the following sections under the Freedom of Information Act:

Section 23 -	Security
Section 26 -	Defence
Section 27 -	International Relations
Section 40 -	Personal Information

Sections 23 and 40 are absolute exemptions whereas sections 26 and 27 are qualified, which mean public interest tests are required to decide whether the information should be released. There is clearly a need for the Ministry of Defence to be open and transparent, for the public to understand the UK's contribution to military operations in Afghanistan, for it to have an understanding of the Army's interpretation of operational level lessons to be learnt from the campaign and the Army's work with its coalition partners. However, this has to be balanced with the need to protect sensitive information about our capabilities, procedures and tactics for example to ensure the security of our personnel and success of any future operations. Likewise, we should seek to protect information that if released may harm our relations with coalition partners which could in turn affect future operations and national security. On balance I believe that the release of some of the information in the study would be likely to prejudice the security of our personnel, our relationships with coalition partners, national security, capability and effectiveness of the Armed Forces and the future success of operations and should, therefore, be withheld.

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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letter 'Z'.

Disclosure and Litigation Leader