



Ministry  
of Defence

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04 August 2017

Ref. FOI 2017/07574

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2017 requesting the following information:

*"I have been trying to get information on the grading of my Quarter, [REDACTED] and the other quarters on my road to move forward with my CAAS challenge. I have spoken to most of the inhabitants of my street who are paying a lot less than myself for their properties.*

*I have contacted [REDACTED] reference this and she has informed me to contact you. Under the freedom of information act 2000, please could I have the CAAS grading reports for all properties on [REDACTED]. I do not require occupant details, or addresses as all properties are of the same type, just the banding information and survey to compare to my property as I feel that I am over paying"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request under Section 26(1)(b) (Defence) and Section 38(1) (Health and Safety) of the FOIA. Both Section 26 and Section 38 are qualified exemptions and therefore a public interest test has been conducted.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied because some of the information requested could put at risk the security of our Armed Forces personnel and Section 38(1) has been applied as some of the information requested could put the safety of the families and dependants of our Armed Forces personnel at risk. A public interest test has been conducted to determine whether the risk posed to our Armed Forces personnel through this information is tolerable and the balance of public interest lay in neither confirming nor denying whether the MOD held any of the information in scope of your request.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that although the MOD has previously responded to similar requests to the one you have made, I should advise you that we have recently reviewed the safety and security of our Armed Forces in relation to answering FOIA requests which seek the type of information you have requested. This review has concluded that for all such requests the Department should neither confirm nor deny whether any information is held. This is because any release under the FOIA is a release into the public

domain and a request can be made by anyone without the requirement to provide identification or a reason for their request. With this in mind, as detailed above, there are clear risks in providing the public with confirmation as to whether the Department holds information in relation to any specific address that might have been involved in the Combined Accommodation Assessment System (CAAS) Survey process, as this would in turn identify the location of Service Family Accommodation.

Under Section 21 of FOIA (Other Means) you may wish to note that the information you seek may be available to you via the internal CAAS challenge process. You should contact the National Housing Prime contractor CarillionAmey at [CAASchallenges@carillionamey.co.uk](mailto:CAASchallenges@carillionamey.co.uk) to submit a request, including your service details and address.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat