



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

31 October 2017

[REDACTED]

Ref. FOI2017/09428

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 October 2017 requesting the following information:

*"I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information.
In your April response you stated that any further updates would be published on the following website.*

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/defence-infrastructure-organisation-disposals-database-house-of-commonsreport>

The 28/7/2017 Disposal database: House of Commons report July 2017 on the website does not contain any reference to Dalton Barracks.

Please explain the types of status referred to in the House of Commons Report.

Please explain what is meant by Forecast FY in the House of Commons Report.

If Dalton Barracks is not listed on the House of Commons Report, what status does it have within the disposal programme?

What is the process for disposing of Dalton Barracks and what are the timescales involved?

Are the Barracks to be sold on the open market or transferred to the HCA or another government agency?

Since April 2017 has the MOD decided to release the site for development in phases, and if so what are these phases?

Please provide minutes of meetings held between MOD/Defence Estates and Vale of White Horse District Council on the subject of Dalton Barracks since November 2016.

When is the annual update on progress on a Better Defence Estate due to be published?"

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

Your request for the minutes of meetings held between MOD/Defence Estates and Vale of White Horse District Council on the subject of Dalton Barracks since November 2016 has been withheld under Section 35 of the FOI Act, information that relates to the formulation of government policy.

Section 35 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Please explain the types of status referred to in the House of Commons Report?

"Assessment" refers to sites that have been initially considered for disposal and a decision taken to proceed to further formal assessment work, for example to determine alternative planning uses, optimum disposal strategy, funding requirements and any relocation/re-provision works

"Delivery" refers to sites that have been approved for disposal, with funding sanctioned to complete any due diligence work and implement the agreed disposal and re-provision strategy.

"LSDP Delivery" refers to generally larger disposal sites where a Development or Land Sales Delivery Partner (LSDP) is appointed to manage MOD's longer term interest over a number of years (typically investing in site infrastructure and releasing land to the open market in phases to maximise value).

Please explain what is meant by Forecast FY in the House of Commons Report?

The Forecast FY is the Financial Year when the sale is expected to complete.

If Dalton Barracks is not listed on the House of Commons Report, what status does it have within the disposal programme?

Dalton Barracks (including Abingdon Airfield) was announced as a disposal opportunity for 2029 in November 2016 as part of the estate optimisation strategy "A Better Defence Estate". The site will feature in the House of Commons Report in due course.

What is the process for disposing of Dalton Barracks and what are the timescales involved?

The disposal of Dalton Barracks is expected to follow our normal disposal process in accordance with Treasury Guidelines (Managing Public Money), including the completion of due diligence (e.g. site investigations, planning assessment, Crichel Down (Former Owner) investigations and associated site closure activities).

When is the annual update on progress on a Better Defence Estate due to be published?

An update on the progress of the estate optimisation strategy "A Better Defence Estate" will be provided to Parliament in Autumn 2017.

Are the Barracks to be sold on the open market or transferred to the HCA or another government agency? Since April 2017 has the MOD decided to release the site for development in phases, and if so what are these phases?

The information requested above has been withheld under Section 35, information that relates to the formulation of government policy.

Section 35 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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). 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