

13 June 2017

Ref. FOI 2017/05489

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 May 2016 requesting the following information:

*"Please disclose all relevant information pertaining to the re-banding of [REDACTED] including but not limited to nearest amenities, hospital, further education, airports or noise causing airfields and any other information leading to the decision of rebanding the property under the nem scaling 2017".*

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 [REDACTED] request, including your service details and address.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any a [REDACTED] 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, 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 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