



Ministry  
of Defence

Secretariat  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
Kingston Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B75 7RL

E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.uk  
www.gov.uk/DIO

31 August 2017

Ref. FOI2017/07721

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2017 requesting the following information:

*I am requesting the following information:*

1. The reason for the firing range at Hythe Kent is used from 8.30 till 23.00 hours for over 20 days in August alone?

*Why so many late nights.*

2. Most weekends including Sundays.

3. Could this exercise not be shared with Lydd?

4. How many private organisations use this site, especially at weekends, s the firing pattern is different.i.e Gun clubs

5. Has the noise level been monitored, as this may well breach health and safety levels both in volume and intensity and against WHO protocols for this complaint.

*I fully appreciate the important work that the armed forces do to protect the country, but there seems to be a constant barrage of rapid firing 7 days a week.*

6. Do you liase with Shepway council, and who is it I can discuss this with ? name and phone number please?

*This has come to the attention of the local community, and the recent residential development of over a 100 dwellings alongside the range seems to have caused an increase in the noise levels. One can only imagine what the noise levels are like living within 30 metres of the boundary, when they are occupied?*

*I would appreciate any information, and a contact phone number to discuss this matter. on the subject.'*

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.

1. *The reason for the firing range at Hythe Kent is used from 8.30 till 23.00 hours for over 20 days in August alone? Why so many late nights:*

The reason for the use of Hythe Ranges is because of military training, which at times requires firing at night.

Firing times for July and August 2017 can be found online at:  
<http://www.hythetc.kentparishes.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Firing-Times-for-Hythe-July-and-August-2017.pdf>

2. *Most weekends including Sundays.*

Although firing can be conducted all weekends of the year, currently only every other weekend is open to users. Weekend firing can be increased in times of major operational deployments.

3. *Could this exercise not be shared with Lydd?*

These exercises could not be conducted at Lydd as both range complexes offer different types of live fire facilities to meet specific operational requirements.

4. *How many private organisations use this site, especially at weekends, s the firing pattern is different.i.e Gun clubs*

A total of 23 local gun clubs use Hythe Ranges. Hythe Ranges are currently only open for firing every other weekend. Gun clubs can only use the facility at Hythe when military units are on site also using the ranges. On average, between one – seven gun clubs may use the facility at weekends when the ranges are open and military units are also on site.

5. *Has the noise level been monitored, as this may well breach health and safety levels both in volume and intensity and against WHO protocols for this complaint.*

Noise levels are monitored and there is no record of noise exceeding statutory limits.

6. *Do you liase with Shepway council, and who is it I can discuss this with ? name and phone number please?*

The MOD does liase with Shepway District Council. If you wish to contact Shepway District Council you may do so directly at: 01303 853530

7. *I would appreciate any information, and a contact phone number to discuss this matter. on the subject.'*

Range Control can be contacted Folkstone on 01303 225879/01303 225518 (Hythe) or 01303 225519 (Lydd)

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that August 2017 has and will be a particularly busy month due to a major military unit and civilian police forces on site conducting pre-deployment training for operations.

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

