



Ministry
of Defence

Secrétariat Parliamentary Team
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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Sutton Coldfield
B75 7RL

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

07 February 2017

Email:

Ref: FOI2017/00355

Dear

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2017 requesting the following information:

Please provide all documents relating to the presence, encapsulation and/or removal of asbestos at MOD premises located at the site formerly known as RAF St Athan (ie the large military defence unit located close to the village of St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan). Requested documents to include all surveys, reports, correspondence, internal and external memoranda relating to all buildings on site. In particular please provide all documents relating to the presence, encapsulation, and/or removal of asbestos from E5 hanger located on site RAF St Athan.

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

I am writing to confirm that it is not possible for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to determine whether or not the information requested is held by the Department without far exceeding the appropriate cost limit. Due to the age and size of the site we hold huge volumes of material and it would take many members of staff many weeks of work to review the files in order to determine whether the information is held. In addition, some of this work would have to be conducted by the MOD facilities management provider at considerable cost.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that many of the buildings and facilities to which you refer are now in the ownership of the Welsh Government and so responsibility for holding and collecting this information now rests with them. These buildings include E5 to which you specifically refer.

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 DIO Secretariat 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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

DIO Secretariat