



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
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09 February 2018

Ref. FOI2018/00761

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2018 requesting the following information:

- 1. Whether any new and/or refurbished married quarters have been made available for members of each of the services, i.e. the Navy, Army and the Air Force or for any other MOD employees in Gibraltar for the financial years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017;*
- 2. If any new and/ or refurbishing existing married quarters for members of each of the services, i.e. the Navy, Army and the Air-Force or any other MOD employees have been provided in Gibraltar in the financial years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, the amount expended in previous and those years on each of the projects that allowed these married quarters to be available;*
- 3. Provide the address of each of the projects in respect of which information is provided in reply to request 1 and 2 above."*

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at sections 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

The answers to your questions are as follows:

- 1. In the financial year 2015/2016 no new Service Family Accommodation (SFA) were constructed. One SFA was refurbished and this was undertaken at change of occupancy. In the financial year 2016/2017 no new SFA were constructed and none were refurbished.*

2. In the financial year 2015/2016 a full internal and external refurbishment was undertaken on a 1950's SFA property. The cost of these works was £193,161.47.
3. The address of the property has been withheld 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 withholding the information in scope of your request.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the individual SFA properties in Gibraltar are not Service specific. The Gibraltar SFA properties serve all three services (Navy, Army, Air) and UK based civilians. Therefore estates and blocks of flats have a mixture of occupiers.

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 in writing 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