



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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www.gov.uk/DIO

26 October 2018

Ref. FOI 2018/12117

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 28 September 2018 requesting the following information:

"May I have the number of Mod owned homes in Hythe (Kent) and within a 15 mile radius, on civilian land (eg not in barracks etc) please?"

Also a breakdown of where they are (the road and town name), number of bedrooms in each home, and whether they are occupied or unoccupied?"

Could you also tell me for how long those homes have been occupied or empty, please?"

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 information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found enclosed at Annex A, but the breakdown of the location of properties 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. 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. Whilst there is a public interest in the disclosure of the information as it would satisfy the requirement for information to be released, it does not outweigh the very strong public interest in protecting the safety and security of those who live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA). If MOD confirmed the road and town name for SFA located within Hythe, this would provide public confirmation that the location provided homes for Armed Forces personnel. Providing such confirmation would give anyone with malicious intent the location of a Service person which would potentially place them and their family at risk of harm.

I am satisfied in this case that the balance of the 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 MOD currently provides the majority of its SFA on a leaseback arrangement with Annington Property Limited.

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.gov.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

MOD owned Service Family Accommodation (SFA) within 15 Miles of Hythe, Kent

Owner	Status	No of SFA	No of Bedrooms			
			2	3	4	5
MOD	VOID	11		2	8	1
	LET	22		9	13	
	TOTAL	33		11	21	1

Duration Void

Owner	Days Void	Total SFA
MOD	43	1
	58	1
	288	1
	539	1
	609	1
	1143	1
	1238	1
	1526	1
	1555	1
	1557	1
	1850	1
TOTAL SFA		11

Duration Occupied

Owner	Days Occupied	Total SFA
MOD	70	1
	90	1
	107	1
	184	3
	188	7
	195	1
	197	1
	320	1
	406	1
	415	1
	496	1
	621	1
	1224	1
	1877	1
TOTAL SFA		22