



Policy Legacy FOI Team
Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade
British Forces Post Office 801

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Reference: FOI: 2018/13835

Date: 12 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE MURDER OF WILLIAM MORRISON – 17 April 1982

I can confirm that your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI(A), and the process is now complete.

You asked for the following:

“I write to you today on behalf of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] William John Morrison was murdered by the Provisional IRA (PIRA) on Saturday, April 17, 1982. The incident happened on his farm at Kiltubrid Road, Tynan, County Armagh.”

I can confirm that the MOD holds some information relating to the incident in which William Morrison was killed on 17 April 1982. This information has been located in a range of documents which I have provided relevant extracts at Annex A. These would have been highly redacted as the remaining information they include is outside the scope of your request. If you wish to receive the documents in the redacted format we can provide on request.

Some of the information located falls within the scope of Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOI(A), all Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) cases remain open and if new evidence comes forward the PSNI will reinvestigate. Release of these documents must be carefully considered under Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOI(A). I have completed this consideration through a public interest test including consultation with the PSNI who have advised that release of some of the information could adversely impact on any investigative process, and may jeopardise any future prosecutorial process. On this basis I am withholding some of the information under Section 31 of the FOI(A).

I appreciate that this incident took place 36 years ago and the passage of time can be a factor in diminishing the applicability of exemptions to information. However, in this instance the passage of time is less relevant as the PSNI continue to investigate Troubles-related murders and the overall balance is in favour of partial exemption.

In addition, some of the information falls within the scope of Section 38 (Health and Safety) of the FOI(A), as its release could endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual.

Section 38 is a qualified exemption and we have conducted a public interest test to determine whether the information should be released or withheld. The factors for this public interest have determined that whilst disclosure would demonstrate openness and transparency this is outweighed by the detrimental effect disclosure could have on those mentioned in the documents, or their family members and friends. I have concluded that whilst disclosure may be of historical interest, the health and safety of individuals must be taken into account especially where release would be likely to endanger, the physical or mental health of any individual. Some information has therefore been redacted under Section 38 of the FOI(A).

Some of the information contained within the disclosure constitutes personal information, such as names and addresses. Under FOIA 2000 this information is exempt under Section 40 (2) by reason of the first condition under Section 40 (3) (a) (i), as disclosure would contravene data protection principles under the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test to be conducted in order for this information to be exempt from disclosure. Therefore all personal information has been redacted.

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 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 FOI(A). 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

38 (Irish) Brigade FOI Team

Enc: Annex A Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents Relating to the Murder of Mr William Morrison dated 12 December 2018

Verbatim Extracts from Various Documents Relating to the Murder of William J Morrison – 17 April 1982
FOI 2018/11327

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
FOR THE PERIOD 052400-192400 April 1982

Reference 1040/12 G3 (Ops)
Date 21 April 1982

GENERAL

3. A Protestant farmer, William Morrison, was murdered in a particularly cold blooded attack which occurred at his farm near Middletown (17 Apr). A gunman with an Armalite shot him a number of times from very close range in an attack [Redacted]. In a follow up operation the getaway car was discovered by the Garda, in County Monaghan [Redacted].

ANNEX A TO 1040/12 G OPS
DATED 21 APR 82

8 INF BDE-17 APR 82

52. Shooting, Middletown. At 0230 hrs [Redacted] masked men broke into the home of [Redacted] of [Redacted] Kiltubrid Rd, and held the occs hostage. At 0630 hrs [Redacted] men, [Redacted] probably armed with Armalites, set off across the fields to Morrison's Farm approx. 400m away. At 0758 hrs the gunmen fired approx 13 HV rds at William John Morrison (48) as he came out of his house. The men returned to [Redacted] house and escaped in [Redacted] Hillman Hunter, VRN [Redacted]. William Morrison was hit 9 times and was DOA at the Craigavon Hosp. During the FU 13 x .223 empty cases were found at the scene at separate FPs. The Garda recovered the car nr Ballybay, Co. Monagh(*sic*), [Redacted].

17/18 Apr 82

DAILY OPERATIONS BRIEF

8 Inf Bde

1. At 0758 hrs a civ, William Morrison, was shot dead by [Redacted] gunmen outside his farmhouse near MIDDLETOWN.

8 INF BDE

SHOOTING, Middletown (2 UDR)

SATURDAY
771388 At 0230 [Redacted] masked and armed men broke into the home of [Redacted]
[Redacted] KILTUBBRID(*sic*) Rd.

They held the occs(*sic*) hostage and at 0630 hrs, [Redacted] men, at least [Redacted] armed with as Armalite, set out across fields to

772392 MORRISON`S FARM.

Saturday At 0758 hrs the gunmen fired NYK rds at William John Morrison as he came out of his house. The men returned to [Redacted] house and escaped in [Redacted] Hillman Hunter VRN [Redacted]. William Morrison was DOA at Craigavon Hospital. In the FU. 13 x .223 empty cases were found at the scene. The Garda recovered the car near Ballybay. Co. Monaghan, [Redacted] arrests were made.

**DEATHS, DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION
IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

1982

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	LOCATION
MORRISON, W	17.04.82	MIDDLETOWN

RESTRICTED

1982										
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
1557	17 Apr	Mr	WJ	Morrison	P	42	Middletown	Shot	PIRA	1982107003