



Ministry  
of Defence

██████████  
Defence Equipment and Support  
Secretariat  
Building H9, H Site  
Ministry of Defence  
Ploughley Road  
Lower Arncott  
Bicester OX25 1NZ



Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk

██████████

██

██████████

██

Our Reference:  
FOI2019/04437  
Date:  
7 May 2019

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2019 requesting the following information, which revised the scope of your original request (as amended below) to cover Germany rather than all sites in the UK and abroad:

- "1.**
  - a. A list of all Aqueous Film Forming Foam products used on British military sites since 2008, in Germany.**
  - b. Known location of use of each product**
  - c. Known year(s) of use of the product**
  - d. Known content of perfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS), e.g. perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), of the product.**
  
- 2.**
  - a. A list of all British military sites (in Germany) where there is known contamination with perfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS), e.g. perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)**
  - b. All details of any testing or sampling for contamination by the substances listed in 2.a., including the time and date of the taking of the sampling and exact location within the site, if available."**

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, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

Part 1

The following table provides the information requested under Part 1 of your request by product category:

**Defence Equipment & Support**

<u>Product</u>	<u>Location (in Germany)</u>	<u>Year(s) of use</u>	<u>PFAS content</u>
Fire Extinguishers (a) 9ltr	All sites	2009 to date	0% in current product; information not held for earlier product
Bulk Foam (a) 25ltr container (b) 1000ltr container	All sites	2009 to date	0%
Airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting Operational Foam	All airfields	Circa 2014 to date	6%
Airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting MSDS Training Foam	All airfields	Circa 2014 to date	6%

The current Aqueous Film Forming Foam that has been in service for the last four to five years in fire extinguishers does not contain PFAS and at the point of introduction, none of the ingredients were on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) banned chemicals list. We (and our commodities main contractor) do not hold information on the earlier fire extinguisher product in respect of its content.

Bielefeld, Gütersloh, Paderborn and Sennelager Barracks are still open/active in Germany; the following sites were open in 2008, but were handed back during 2014 to 2016: Hameln; Harewood Barracks, Hammersmith Barracks and Wentworth Barracks at Herford; Fallingbostal; Hohne; Alanbrooke Barracks at Paderborn; Tower Barracks at Dülmen; Princess Royal Barracks at Gütersloh; Kiel Training Centre.

## Part 2

There are no known sites in Germany with contamination from PFAS and no records of sampling or testing for these contaminants has been identified.

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](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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

  
Defence Equipment and Support

**Defence Equipment & Support**