



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Ref: EIR2018/14245

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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www.gov.uk/DIO

11 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 November 2018 requesting the following information:

"Can you please provide the names of the 60+ U.K sites where Mustard Gas has been stored and/or disposed of post-WWII. As I understand it, most sites were WWII RAF or USAAF bases.

These sites are in addition to the four production facilities and four forward filling depots officially declared by the Government under the Chemical Weapons Convention."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. I can therefore respond to your request as follows:

This information falls under Regulation 12(4)(d) (incomplete data) and has been withheld. The request relates to material which is still in the process of being completed and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in not disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Under Regulation 9(1) (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that this information will be published externally upon completion.

The information you have requested forms part of the Cleansweep project, which has been completed and received by the MOD. The review of this report by the MOD has not yet been completed and we are unable to provide provisional copies of the information as these have not yet been reviewed by the appropriate subject matter expert (SME) within the MOD and therefore may contain errors or inconsistencies which would be misleading for the reader.

With regards to a programme or timings for publication of the final report, publication will be subject to Ministerial approval following the SME review, and so no fixed timescale can be provided.

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 Regulation 11 under the Environmental Information Regulations. 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