



**Ministry
of Defence**

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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19 March 2019

Ref. FOI 2019/02131

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2019 requesting the following information:

"a. a copy of the current status, map, report and the date of the Assessment of Need for a Section 28 Direction for Donna Nook Air Weapons Range, Donna Nook, Lincolnshire and

b. the details of, and reasons for, any future changes to the present operation of the Donna Nook Air Weapons Range that would necessitate either a change in the status of this facility as far as current Section 28 Directions are concerned, or a change in the Byelaws, and

c. if any changes to operations or Byelaws at Donna Nook are being contemplated or proposed that may affect the long standing unrestricted historic use by the public of the walked beach path, please provide details of these and the public consultation process that will be undertaken with the Parish Council and local community, as persons potentially liable to be affected by any such proposed changes, together with dates."

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

- A. No maps or reports have been produced at this time. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) are still working with the Byelaw Review Team to identify the full extent of the Donna Nook Byelaw boundary, which will in turn inform whether a Section 28 Direction is required.
- B. See response to question A above.
- C. The Byelaw review has not yet begun.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note we wrote to you on 07 March 2019 explaining that access to the ranges is continually assessed to ensure public safety, whilst remaining flexible to the changing training and operational needs. To predict any future changes in this respect would not be possible, but the MOD will always work to its policy in favour of public access, where it does not impact on military training, or public safety.

Please note the section 28 Direction process is such that, if it is deemed necessary to apply for a Direction, justification of the requirement will be available for public scrutiny.

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