



# Ministry of Defence

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref. FOI 2019/10462

8 October 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2019 requesting the following information:

**"Request #1**

*To determine if there is any disused DIO/MOD land or buildings that I may purchase.*

*Area –*

*The particular area of concern is postcode GU51/GU52/GU10, Fleet, Ewshot, Church Crookham, Crookham Village and Odiham.*

*The reason for this request –*

*I wish to purchase land or disused buildings, to build or renovate a property for my family prior to leaving the Armed forces. This is as a cheap alternative to buying a house outright. Something which is sadly, is far from my grasp.*

*I am aware of dozens of properties of the Humphrey Park SFA estate that are stood empty, and have been for months (some for up to two years). But I am also aware that DIO would rather rent these on the private housing market and if they were to be sold, it would be by Annington Homes, at full market value. With no consideration to the Armed forces.*

**Request #2**

*Can you please provide me with a valid (and lawful) reason, why SFA properties that are surplus to requirement, cannot be sold (under a joint agreement between DIO/MOD and Annington Homes) to servicemen, preferably at a discounted rate, as such with social housing within local councils, instead of what is currently happening, with them being rent out on the private market. As a social housing landlord (I refer to both DIO and Annington Homes) why does the same privilege not extend to your tenants?"*

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 of the information in scope of your request is held, however some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at Sections 22 (Intended for future publication) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 22 (Information Intended for future publication) has been applied to Request #1 of your FOI and the information has been withheld under this exemption.

Details of the areas of the Defence Estate that are available for purchase can usually be found on the disposal's database via the following link: <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/47f7438a-506d-49c9-b565-7573f8df031e/defence-infrastructure-organisation-disposals-database-house-of-commons-report>. However, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) officials are currently updating this information with a view for this information to be uploaded and be accessible via the above link by the end of October 2019.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The outcome of the balance of the public interest test concluded that whilst release would promote openness, transparency and a further understanding of government processes in decision making. We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

The balance of the public interest lay in withholding the information you desire as to release this information would be premature, as the information requested is due to be published as part of a routine publication scheduled at the end of October 2019.

Information is not held in relation to your Request #2.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the vacant houses on Humphrey Park in Church Crookham have been earmarked for sub-letting and are currently being advertised for rent via DIO's Accommodation agents, Orchard and Shipman.

You may also wish to note the following information in regards to Request #2 of your FOI:

If properties are permanently surplus to requirements, DIO are required under the terms of the Annington lease to serve a six month notice on Annington and return properties to them with vacant possession. It is then up to Annington to decide any subsequent actions with these surplus properties.

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 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