



Ministry of Defence

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Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44(0)20 7218 9000

E-mail: [DNO-
SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DNO-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

25 October 2019

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Thank you for your email of 2nd September 2019, clarifying your original request for the following information:

“A log of incidents of all of safety lapses on convoys carrying nuclear bombs and hazardous radioactive materials occurring in Scotland since 01/01/2014.?”

Which was clarified as a request for:

“...information on engineering and operational incidents covering the period from August 2016 onwards.”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed and we attach the following documents:

- 20190906 - MOD Convoy Operational Incidents Aug 2016 - Aug 2019
- 20190906 - MOD Convoy Engineering Incidents Aug 2016 - Aug 2019

As we explained in the response to the previous FOI request, the information regarding engineering and operational incidents covers all Defence Nuclear Material convoy operations in the UK, and therefore includes information covering the transportation of both Nuclear Weapons and Special Nuclear Material, and in the whole of the UK, not just in Scotland.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence. 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 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 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 Nuclear Organisation Secretariat

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS Aug 2016 to August 2019

Type	Date	Description & Cause	Outcome
Road	Oct 16	Route diversion due to RTC not involving convoy vehicles further ahead. Use of Hard Shoulder agreed with Territorial Police	Impact delay in reaching RB
Road	July 17	RTC not involving the convoy. Authorisation agreed to use alternative route.	Minor delay of few minutes to the convoys intended ETA
Road	March 18	The tilt from TCHD was lifting and blowing in the wind. Concerns that it might rip off.	Pushed traffic forward to find a safe place to stop. Informed SOO that a stop and inspection were required. Fitters inspected each TCHD and carried out some minor repairs and tie downs allowing us to continue. Minor Delay.
Road	March 18	Due to high winds on exposed part of the route potentially affecting Convoy high sided vehicles it was suggested the convoy speed could be reduced.	Convoy Commander agreed and the convoy ran at 40mph.
Road	Sept 18	Lorry had shed its load on route, ahead of the convoy. Closing the road all day.	Authorisation given to use another route.
Road	Jan 19	A 2-vehicle RTC reported ahead. No convoy vehicles involved, convoy stopped due to distance of Support element held in build-up of traffic.	Traffic management and actions taken to reconfigure were taken resulting in a minor delay.
Road	Feb 19	A 1-vehicle issue reported ahead. No convoy vehicles involved. A vehicle transporter had caught fire forcing closure of Motorway to all traffic.	Route assessed and block put on for convoy and support element to pass incident which was done safely.
Road	March 19	Threat of high winds in area.	This was not an issue in the end as it was mitigated by bringing the Op times forward.
Road	May 19	A serious accident on route caused long delays on both carriageways.	A rolling block was established to manage progress of the convoy as it passed through the congested areas. 1-hour delay

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**OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS
Aug 2016 to August 2019**

Road	May 19	Police Vehicle RTC on road junction with civilian car.	Assessed with local police. Convoy stopped minor delay
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**ENGINEERING INCIDENTS
Aug 2016 to Aug 2019**

Type	Date	Description & Cause	Outcome
Road	Oct 16	Vehicle had issues with the clutch. Convoy needed to stop.	Convoy stopped in layby, vehicle inspected, repaired and cleared to proceed. Minor Delay
Road	Mar 17	Vehicle reported a brake warning indicator, continued to rest break on the advice. Further investigation completed at rest break no loss of braking ability found vehicle continued to TSP where the vehicle was swapped out with the spare.	No delay
Road	May 17	Vehicle reported a brake warning indicator and lack of power, a report of burning brake smell was also noted	Vehicle recovered to Rest Break and replacement sent for. Convoy delay 35 Minutes
Road	May 17	TCHD reported that an air pipe had blown off in the cab.	Vehicle inspected and issue resolved, then cleared as safe to continue. Minor delay
Road	May 17	The cab tilt warning light came on in TCHD as the convoy was preparing to leave.	Vehicle inspected, micro-switch issue. Minor delay.
Road	July 17	Vehicle developed a fault with the EDC AMBER light on.	Convoy fitter accepted the fault and declared it good to go. Fault continued to be intermittent throughout the Op; no effect felt in the vehicle
Road	Nov 17	Convoy Escort Vehicle reported a u/s window wiper	Convoy was stopped and a lane 1 and 2 closure applied whilst investigation and repair took place. Minor delay
Road	Nov 17	A different Convoy Escort Vehicle reported that passenger's window wiper had failed. Driver's side still ok.	After assessment and consultation decision was made that it was safe to carry on.
Road	Jan 18	Air leak discovered on TCHD.	Fitter assessed air was being replaced quicker than leaking. Decision made to continue. Minor Delay
Road	Jan 18	Convoy vehicle got a flat tyre. Convoy stopped in a safe area.	Lane 1 closure put in place. Changed tyre. Highways and Local Police informed. Convoy moved off again minor delay

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**ENGINEERING INCIDENTS
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Road	Jan 18	Air leak discovered on suspension system of same TCHD (different place than before).	Fitter checked and assessed it was safe to continue
Road	Jan 18	Convoy Escort Vehicle reports 3 x leaks on windscreen. Water was running down the inside.	View was not obscured and it was assessed that the vehicle could continue on the operation.
Road	Mar 18	Police Vehicle had issue with its blue lights being stuck on.	Vehicle was directed to pull over and switch the car on and off. This resolved the issue.
Road	Mar 18	Convoy Escort Vehicle reported a central locking failure.	Failure was due to a blown solenoid which was not fixable on the road. No impact as manual operation of the locking system was still available.
Road	Apr 18	Central Locking fault on Vehicle reported prior to Rest Break	No repair possible during task advised return vehicle to workshops following day team aware of vehicle shortfall manual locking still available.
Road	May 18	Convoy Vehicle reported amber warning light.	Vehicle inspected and cleared safe to continue. No delay. Vehicle re-inspected. It had been fine on the journey but as a precaution it was swapped with the spare tractor unit.
Road	May 18	Convoy Escort Vehicle reported a problem with its exhaust.	Swap vehicle it out with the spare as well, SOO informed.
Road	Jan 19	TCHD reported that N/S tractor brake light was US.	TCHD's brake light was fixed during the RB.
Road	Jan 19	Convoy Escort Vehicle reported that its blue lights were US	Escort Vehicles Blue lights were fixed during the RB.
Road	Sept 18	TCHD reported an amber overheat warning detected.	Warning indication investigated by AWE staff and recommended safe to continue without the need for a tractor head change
Road	Oct 18	Smoke observed coming from the rear wheel of Convoy Escort Vehicle.	As only 1Km from our entry point it was decided that it would be safe for the convoy

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**ENGINEERING INCIDENTS
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			to continue at a reduced speed. Upon entry investigation was carried out on the vehicle and found no brake issue
Road	Oct 18	Convoy Vehicle had tyre pressure warning lights coming on. Tyres were visually checked by another vehicle and seemed ok.	Tyres checked and all in order at RB
Road	Jan 19	Convoy Vehicle showed a red warning light indicating a fault with the braking system.	Air pressures were inspected and the driver confirmed there was no change to the braking characteristics, no further inspection was required as red light went out of its own accord.
Road	Jan 19	TCHD reported operational light failure for the environmental monitoring	At TSP the system was downloaded then reset solving the problem.
Road	May 19	During the Southward leg, shortly after departing the TSP, a Convoy vehicle (non TCHD) began experiencing power issues and anticipated breakdown would occur.	Vehicle directed to take the next service stop to be assessed. Vehicle was assessed as U/S as now experiencing total power loss Vehicle swap took place with spare vehicle
Road	May 19	Convoy Escort Vehicle reported that the windscreen washer had stopped working	On investigation the pump was found to have failed so the vehicle carried on to the TSP where it was swapped for the spare.
Road	July 19	Brake valve fault inspected due to an amber warning light illuminated on TCHD,	This fault was inspected utilising the management system (computer interrogation). Results assessed that it was safe to continue
Road	July 19	On route a police convoy vehicle reported a flat tyre.	Decision for them to deal with it themselves as trained to do so on that vehicle and had the appropriate equipment.
Road	July 19	A Police vehicle reported that their brakes were pulling.	CSO requested that an inspection was carried out by

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			a fitter at the Rest Break to ensure the vehicle was safe to proceed, inspection carried out – safe to continue.
Road	July 19	On leaving Rest break TCHD reported a light failure warning light	This was investigated and the CSO determined that the convoy could continue with this fault.