



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2019/12907

E-Mail: DSA-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

10 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2019 requesting the following information:

“I would like to receive a copy of the “Defence Safety Authority Annual Assurance Reports, April 2018 to March 2019.”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemption at section 22 (Information Intended for Future Publication) of the FOIA.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Section 22 (1) (a) & (b) has been applied as the DSA Annual Assurance Report is intended to be published into the public domain shortly.

The above mentioned Public Interest Test has been carried out. It considered the value of early release of the report, particularly in demonstrating MOD’s commitment to openness & transparency against withholding the report until the planned publication date. In this case the balance was found to lie in withholding the document until the planned publication date as release of the report is imminent and early release would provide no additional benefit to the public.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the DSA Annual Assurance Report was intended for publication in early November however due to publication restrictions during the Purdah period this was not possible. It is intended that the report will be published via Gov.UK at the following link as soon as practical after the Purdah restrictions have been lifted.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dsa-annual-assurance-reports>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint 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. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

DSA Secretariat