



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
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19 September 2019

Ref: FOI/2019/09741

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2019 requesting the following information:

It has been made public that Folkestone and Hythe District Council has purchased Westenhanger Castle. Also earlier this year the two Martello towers and the land called the escarpment in Sandgate were also sold. The monies granted by Historic England (and in its former identity as English Heritage) included claw back arrangements. Can you confirm that these clawback clauses were invoked as per the original contracts for the following: Westenhanger Castle; Martello towers 6 and 7, Shorncliffe; Escarpment land on which the two towers are located at Shorncliffe.

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.

I can confirm that the clawback clauses have been invoked for Martello Towers 6 and 7, Shorncliffe, and the surrounding escarpment land.

The MOD has no record of ever having ownership of, or interest in, Westenhanger Castle, Hythe.

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 FOIA. 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