



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
B75 7RL

E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/DIO

[REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

10 September 2019

Ref. FOI 2019/09321

Dear [REDACTED]

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

"It has been brought to my attention that military fire training is being outsourced to Capita. As a result, Royal Air Force fire fighters at Manston are moving to Moreton in the Marsh, Gloucestershire late 2020, with civilians on the site being given notice of redundancy late 2020.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I wish to request the following information:

- *What is the future of the site?*
- *What is the estimated costs to decontaminate the site, including the highly contaminated fire training area?*
- *Given the high contamination on the site has defence planners made provision to move another military unit on the site?*
- *Is the entire site due to be sold off for housing development ?*
- *What is the situation regarding the 3 Princes of Wales Royal Regiment and 2433 Sqn Air Training Corps that both use Manston?"*

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.

1. What is the future of the site?

A proportion of the RAF Manston site has been identified as surplus to MOD requirements and will be disposed of in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines. Further details around MODs vacation of the site can be found in the written ministerial statement made by the former Minister of State in the House of Lords (Earl Howe), which can be accessed via the following link; <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-07-18/debates/19071847000024/DefenceFireAndRescueProject>.

2. What is the estimated costs to decontaminate the site, including the highly contaminated fire training area?

No Information in scope of this item is held.

3. Given the high contamination on the site has defence planners made provision to move another military unit on the site?

No Information in scope of this item is held.

4. Is the entire site due to be sold off for housing development ?

No Information in scope of this item is held.

5. What is the situation regarding the 3 Princes of Wales Royal Regiment and 2433 Sqn Air Training Corps that both use Manston?"

Both units will continue to use a portion of the site, with the remainder handed over to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to take forward for disposal.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the civil service posts based at RAF Manston are expected to transfer to Capita under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations. The disposal of a proportion of the site is still at a very early stage. The MOD has not yet started the process of detailed planning and necessary engagement with the Local Authorities concerned. This work will take some time, and the future use of the site will be a matter for the eventual purchaser and Local Planning Authority.

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