



Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2020/03333

Your Ref:

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

Telephone: +44(0)20 7218 9000

E-mail: DNO-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk

Via email: [REDACTED]

18 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 9 March 2020 requesting the following information:

“- In the event of an imminent large-scale nuclear attack on the United Kingdom, endangering centres of population across the country, by what means can members of the public expect to receive urgent warning to seek shelter?”

- What form will the warning take and what will be its content, such that the public can be assured as to its authenticity?

- To what extent will the BBC, as the public service broadcaster, be integral to issuing any such warning?”

We have treated your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that, while the Ministry of Defence is the lead government department for the UK's nuclear deterrent capability and other military capabilities which may deter or defend against a nuclear ballistic missile attack, the Cabinet Office (specifically its Civil Contingencies Secretariat) is the lead department for civil contingencies. You may also find the following links of some use:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-of-civil-emergencies-2017-edition>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/preparation-and-planning-for-emergencies-responsibilities-of-responder-agencies-and-others>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/preparation-and-planning-for-emergencies-the-capabilities-programme>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evacuation-and-shelter-guidance>

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 their website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat