



Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2020/08855

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

10 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 19 July 2020 requesting the following information:

"Please provide me with a copy of MoD's most recent policy on information on nuclear matters.

Please include a copy of MoD's guidelines on responding to Freedom of Information Act requests for information on nuclear matters, including 'lines to take'."

And for your email received on 30 July 2020 clarifying that your request is for our:

"...policy for the disclosure of nuclear related information in response to FOI requests and other requests for information."

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

A search for the information has been completed and we can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold information in scope of your request.

Under Section 16(1) of the Act, whereby public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance, so far as it is reasonable to do so, you may wish to note the following information.

The MOD does not have a disclosure policy covering its nuclear-related information. Requests for nuclear-related information – whatever form the requests take – are considered on a case-by-case basis. The MOD is committed to transparency on its nuclear programmes, so far as is consistent with security considerations.

The MOD, along with other government departments, classifies its information and assets to ensure they are appropriately protected. Guidance on the classification system used can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-security-classifications>.

The Information Commissioners' Office (ICO) provides guidance to public bodies on how to address a request for information under the Act. This guidance is available at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/>.

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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat