



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence

Main Building

Whitehall

London SW1A 2HB

United Kingdom

Email: [spodjep-claimsgeneral@mod.gov.uk](mailto:spodjep-claimsgeneral@mod.gov.uk)

Ref: FOI2020/09939

02 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 4 September asking for the following information:

"Please can you search the records of the MOD's Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy Common Law Claims & Policy and provide information in relation to accidents involving civilians, civilian property and farm animals on Salisbury Plain Training Area.

1. Public liability claims, including personal injury and property damage (relating to the Salisbury Plain Training Area).
2. Low flying claims relating to military low flying activity in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the SPTA. "

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. I am writing to confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

1. Public Liability claims including personal injury and property damage relating to activity in the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA). Our claims management system has been searched for claims brought from 1 April 2015 to date, where the location of the incident is recorded as Salisbury or the claimant's address has been recorded as Salisbury. Two claims have been brought in relation to activity from SPTA, one alleging vibrations from impact area causing cracks to windows and another involving a shock wave from Larkhill artillery firing ranges alleging gradual damage to double glazing window seals. Both claims were repudiated by the Claims team.

Please note there are a number of claims that are not in scope of your request as the claims are unrelated to activity on SPTA, for example, property damage to service accommodation or to privately owned vehicles unrelated to activity on SPTA.

DIO have provided information on claims they have settled during the period FY15/16 to FY18/19 in the following table.

Case	Area
Damage to crops and fencing	Netheravon, Salisbury
Damage claim following military track vehicle damage to garden	Collingbourne Ducis.
Damage to property Damage caused by military vehicle during exercise.	Shrewton
Damage claim to fence caused by military vehicle	Collingbourne Ducis.
Damage claim caused by military vehicle	Keevil Airfield

Notes:

Information is for claims settled directly during the period FY15/16 to FY18/19 by DIO.

Locations are in the SPTA and border areas.

Claims received and not settled are not included.

Claims information is not filed by specific area (e.g. SPTA) so other claims may exist which cannot be readily identified.

2. Low flying claims relating to military low flying activity in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the SPTA. Please see table below. We are unable to report low flying claims specific to SPTA as they are categorised by areas. SPTA falls within Low Flying Area 1. Low Flying Area 1 is located in southern England and is an area of intense helicopter activity for Joint Helicopter Command Units based at RAF Benson and RAF Odiham, together with the School of Aviation at Middle Wallop. This area also contains the Salisbury Plain Defence Training Estate which is the UK's largest training area and of great importance to both air and ground forces.

	FY14/15	FY15/16	FY16/17	FY17/18	FY18/19
Number of low flying claims brought in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland <sup>1</sup>	96	74	101	61	55
Of which, number of low flying claims in Low Flying Area 1 which includes SPTA <sup>2</sup>	8	6	6	3	7

<sup>1</sup>Figures as reported in the Claims Annual Report - the FY19/20 figures will be published on the gov.uk website later on in the year.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/851043/20191209-CLAIMS\\_ANNUAL\\_REPORT\\_PUBLICATION\\_1819\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/851043/20191209-CLAIMS_ANNUAL_REPORT_PUBLICATION_1819_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Please see Annex for map showing the Low Flying Areas.

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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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,

Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy  
Common Law and Claims Policy

# ANNEX - LOW FLYING AREA MAP

