



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Cambs, PE28 2EA

E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2024/01702

RFI: 019/24

Date: 06 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DRONE SIGHTINGS REPORTED AFTER THEY WERE SPOTTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE UK'S NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

We refer to your email dated 26 January 2024 to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), which was acknowledged on 29 January 2024.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

For each of the following calendar years 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019

How many drone sightings were reported to your police force – after they were spotted in the vicinity of the UK's nuclear power stations?

Can you please provide any details relating to each incident – including which power station they were sighted near?

How many sightings were there near to other nuclear establishments in the UK? Can you please state where the incidents were?

A search for information has now been completed I can confirm that the MDP does hold information in scope of your request.

How many drone sightings were reported to your police force – after they were spotted in the vicinity of the UK's nuclear power stations?

No information held.

Can you please provide any details relating to each incident – including which power station they were sighted near?

No information held.

How many sightings were there near to other nuclear establishments in the UK? Can you please state where the incidents were?

2019 = No information held

2020 = No information held

2021 = 11

2022 = 12

2023 = 21

We have completed a Public Interest Test for the location of the incidents and the information in scope of this part of your request is being withheld under the following exemptions:

Section 24 (1) National Security

Section 26(1) Defence

Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement

Section 24(1) has been applied because although the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and how resources are distributed within policing, releasing full information in scope of your request would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Section 26(1) has been applied because although release of the information would demonstrate commitment to transparency, releasing information allows for the likelihood that this information could prejudice the capability, effectiveness of the Ministry of Defence Police's ability to secure establishments connected to the UK's nuclear deterrent and therefore this would prejudice the defence of the UK.

Section 31(1) has been applied because although releasing this information would lead to better public awareness of operational policing and thereby a potential reduction in crime, releasing information could allow terrorists and individuals intent on carrying out criminal behaviour, to identify areas of the country with increased/reduced drone activity, identify responses to sightings of drones in certain locations, which could hinder the prevention and detection of future crime.

On balance, the public interest favours maintaining the exemptions and withholding the information you have requested.

If you are not satisfied with 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 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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office