



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Business Services**

Secretariat  
Room 6229  
Tomlinson House  
Norcross  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2024/05899

[REDACTED]

07 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 October 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"...copies of any forms used to apply for the licences, the licences (or letters of refusal) and the letters, emails, notes of phone calls or other communication about the sites, including between MOD departments and with the RAF Museum or relatives. The aeroplane sites I am interested in are:  
Consolidated B-24 42-51251 at Whitnash, Warks  
Supermarine Spitfire R6686 at Cold Aston, Gloucs  
Supermarine Spitfires W3839 and BM346 at North Otterington, Yorkshire  
Bristol Beaufort AW271 at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland  
Handley Page Hampden P1221 at Molesworth, Hunts  
Armstrong-Whitworth Whitley T4299 at Sturminster Newton, Dorset  
B-26 42-95814 at Sawbridgeworth, Herts  
Wellington X3547 at Crewe, Cheshire"*

On 15 December 2023 you provided the following refinement:

*"Thank you for your letter of 7 December about my Freedom of Information Request. I am not looking for 700 pages of information and would like to refine my request as you suggest. Unfortunately the list you suggest for refining my request is the same as my original list, so I don't know whether one site is causing the problem or which it is. Can the information be provided if I limit the request to the most recent 30 pages for the site that is causing the problem? If this brings my request within the limit, please can you proceed?"*

On 26 January 2024 you provided the following refinement, requesting:

*"Copies of any forms used to apply for the licences, the licences (or letters of refusal), all communication about the site with the applicant and the department providing the historical information to MoD for the following sites:*

*Consolidated B-24 42-51251 at Whitnash, Warks  
Supermarine Spitfire R6686 at Cold Aston, Gloucs*

*Bristol Beaufort AW271 at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland  
B-26 42-95814 at Sawbridgeworth, Herts  
Wellington X3547 at Crewe, Cheshire*

*The letters, emails, notes of phone calls or other communication, limited to the most recent 30 pages, about: Supermarine Spitfires W3839 and BM346 at North Otterington, Yorkshire*

*The licences (or letters of refusal) and letters, emails, notes of phone calls or other communication about the site with the applicant and with the RAF Museum for:*

*Handley Page Hampden P1221 at Molesworth, Hunts*

*The licences (or letters of refusal), letters, emails, notes of phone calls or other communication about the site with the applicant and landowner for:*

*Armstrong-Whitworth Whitley T4299 at Sturminster Newton, Dorset”*

On 29 February 2024 you provided the following refinement, requesting:

*“Please can you indicate roughly the number of pages against each item (site) in my request of 6 October 2023 and also the number against my reduced-scope request of 26 January 2024, i.e. showing how the approx 700 pages is distributed between the sites...please can you indicate approximately how the 35 hours work is distributed between the sites by showing the approximate time against each for my requests of 6 October and 26 January?”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. The breakdown of the number of pages and approximate time required per site are below. As previously mentioned, no licences have been granted for Spitfires W3839 & BM 346.

<b>Site</b>	<b>No. of pages</b>	<b>Approx. time required (minutes)</b>
Whitley T4299	103	309
B24 42-51251	90	180
Beaufort AW271	195	585
Wellington X3547	62	186
B26 Marauder 42-95814	152	456
Hampden P1221	54	162
Spitfire R6686	186	558
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>2436 (40.8 hours)</b>

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that now the accurate full-page count has been concluded, the original costings have been revised.

As mentioned previously the MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your previous requests if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. If you remove the part of the request specifically asking for “*letters, emails, notes of phone calls or other communication*”, and limit your request solely to “*copies of any forms used to apply for the licences, (or letters of refusal)*” for each of the sites.

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

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)