



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Ref. 09-02-2011-152224-003

9 March 2011

Dear Mr Turnbull

**Request for Information: Former Ammunition Compound Chelsfield**

Thank you for your enquiry dated 9 February 2011. This has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

You asked what the nature and frequency of vehicle movements were to and from the Chelsfield Ammunition Compound, what were the size of the vehicles, which depots did the vehicles transport munitions to, was Fort Halstead the main customer in recent years, and when did the usage of Chelsfield cease.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some information that falls within the scope of this request.

The Chelsfield Ammunition Compound consisted of eleven explosive store houses, approximately 200 sq m in size and a number of ancillary buildings. While the MOD's use of the distribution depot ceased in 2007, munitions were stored on site until circa November 2008.

I have been advised that munitions stored on the site were distributed to units throughout the South and South East of England, including London. The major user immediately prior to closure was the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, which no longer exists. I have only been able to find evidence of one collection of munitions from Chelsfield destined for Fort Halstead, in the last five years prior to Chelsfield closing.

The size of the vehicles used to transport the munitions varied depending on the load being transported. I understand though that the vehicles used could have ranged from a 4x4 Land Rover to a Heavy Goods Vehicle/ articulated lorry. I have been advised that the site was slowly being run down over a number of years prior to 2007, and therefore during this time the number of vehicle movements were very few. There are no archive details held on vehicle movements, however prior to the run down it is believed there would not have been more than 10 – 15 movements per day. There would also have been four movements per day between Fort Halstead and Chelsfield, in vehicles no larger than a Land Rover, by the Ministry of Defence Police who guarded the site up until the point of sale in 2010.

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 me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [REDACTED]@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 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, [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

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