



# Ministry of Defence

DIO Secretariat  
St George's House  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
DMS Whittington  
Lichfield, Staffordshire  
WS14 9PY

Callum Miller MP

House Of Commons,  
Houses Of Parliament,  
London  
SW1A 0AA

[calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk)

**E-mail:** [diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk](mailto:diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/DIO](http://www.gov.uk/DIO)

5 June 2026

Ref No: EIR2026/09271

Dear Callum Miller MP,

Thank you for your email of 5 May 2026 requesting the following information:

*"I am writing regarding concerns about potential PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination linked to the former RAF Upper Heyford airbase site, now forming part of the Heyford Park development in my constituency, in the context of renewed regulatory and public health scrutiny.*

*Recent monitoring by the Environment Agency has identified elevated PFAS concentrations in nearby watercourses, including Gallos Brook, at the second highest recorded levels nationally. The substances identified include PFOA and PFOS, which are associated with historic use in firefighting foams at military airfields.*

*Given the site's history as a former Royal Air Force and United States Air Force base, I would be grateful for clarification on the Ministry of Defence's understanding of any historic contamination risks and the arrangements in place at the point of disposal.*

*In particular, I would be grateful if you could provide:*

*· Details of any environmental assessments, remediation commitments or undertakings provided by the United States Air Force to the UK Government at the point of handover of RAF Upper Heyford in 1994.*

*· Details of any environmental assessments, contamination surveys or remediation works undertaken by the Ministry of Defence following the return of the site in 1994 and prior to its disposal.*

- *Information on any undertakings, warranties or obligations agreed with subsequent purchasers in relation to contamination, including PFAS.*
- *Clarification of any liability retained by the Ministry of Defence, or transferred to other parties, in respect of legacy contamination.*
- *Any records relating to the historic use of firefighting foams or other PFAS-containing substances at the site.*

*I note that there has been previous parliamentary interest in this matter, including discussion of RAF Upper Heyford in House of Lords Hansard (23 January 1997), and I would be grateful if you could also indicate whether any relevant records from that period remain on file and whether the Department has been involved in any subsequent monitoring or engagement with regulators in relation to the site.*

*Given the level of local concern, I would be grateful for your assistance in clarifying the historical position in relation to the remediation of the site at your earliest convenience.”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Act 2004.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

*Q1. Details of any environmental assessments, remediation commitments or undertakings provided by the United States Air Force to the UK Government at the point of handover of RAF Upper Heyford in 1994.*

A1. Information not held.

*Q2. Details of any environmental assessments, contamination surveys or remediation works undertaken by the Ministry of Defence following the return of the site in 1994 and prior to its disposal.*

A2. Please refer to Annexes A-I which enclose Land Quality Assessments (LQA's) for Upper Heyford. I can advise that some of the information in scope of your request falls entirely within the scope of the exemptions provided for at Regulations 13(1) (Personal Data) of the EIR Act and has been redacted.

Regulation 13(1) (Personal Data) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. A public interest test has been conducted to ensure that Regulation 13(1) has been applied correctly.

The public interest test determined that whilst disclosure would demonstrate openness and transparency, the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject, the personal data shall not be disclosed. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified in the attached information.

*Q3. Information on any undertakings, warranties or obligations agreed with subsequent purchasers in relation to contamination, including PFAS.*

A3. Information not held.

*Q4. Clarification of any liability retained by the Ministry of Defence, or transferred to other parties, in respect of legacy contamination.*

A4. Information not held.

*Q5. Any records relating to the historic use of firefighting foams or other PFAS-containing substances at the site.*

A5. Information not held.

*Q6. I note that there has been previous parliamentary interest in this matter, including discussion of RAF Upper Heyford in House of Lords Hansard (23 January 1997), and I would be grateful if you could also indicate whether any relevant records from that period remain on file and whether the Department has been involved in any subsequent monitoring or engagement with regulators in relation to the site.*

A6. Information not held.

*Q7. Given the level of local concern, I would be grateful for your assistance in clarifying the historical position in relation to the remediation of the site at your earliest convenience.*

A7. Information not held.

Under Regulation 9(1) of the EIR Act (Advice and Assistance), please be advised that the LQAs do not cover PFAS, as such checks were not carried out during the requested time period.

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-FOIIR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOIIR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing 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 Regulation 11 under the Environmental Information Regulations. 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,

DIO Secretariat