

From Commander G P BROCKLEBANK Royal Navy



Naval Support From Scotland

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252/7/10/5

Mr D DRAGONETTI
Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon
HELENSBURGH
G84 8NT

11 August 1999

Dear Mr DRAGONETTI,

POTASSIUM IODATE TABLETS

Thank you for your letter of 16 July 1999 requesting the pre-distribution of Potassium Iodate Tablets to the Faslane Peace Camp, which has been passed to me for action as the coordinator of Base Emergency Planning and Services.

The overall plan and procedures for the protection of the public are covered by the Clyde Public Safety Scheme. This scheme is produced and agreed by all relevant Civil Authorities, Civil Emergency Services and Ministry of Defence Departments. Within this scheme it is the responsibility of the Argyll and Clyde Health Board, supported by the Ministry of Defence, to ensure that all measures are implemented to protect members of the public. The safety of the residents of the Faslane Peace Camp is thereby automatically included in this plan.

It was therefore considered necessary and appropriate to refer your request to the Director of Public Health. Subsequent discussions have concluded that the pre-distribution of Potassium Iodate Tablets to appropriate properties is considered to be an acceptable procedure, especially if requested by the residents. It was, however, further concluded that this will require detailed and ongoing mutual agreements and management attention to ensure that the availability and quality of the tablets remain viable and acceptable.

In order to enable satisfactory arrangements to be implemented, the Argyll and Clyde Health Board has requested the following information:

- a. The name of the nominated custodian of the tablets.
- b. The average number of persons resident at the Peace Camp.
- c. The predicted highest numbers of persons likely to be resident at the Peace Camp.

- d. Details of the storage facilities and arrangements for the tablets.
- e. Agreement that the tablets may be inspected periodically by representatives of the Argyll and Clyde Health Board or the Ministry of Defence to ensure satisfactory standards.

It is important to emphasise that the issuing of Potassium Iodate Tablets is a single form of countermeasure, if appropriate. This would be implemented jointly with the immediate advice and requirement to take the effective measure of sheltering indoors with all doors and windows shut. Residents should be encouraged to be aware of any contingency plans for shelter.

I consider that your justifiable request has been addressed by the relevant authorities and that this response and proposals meet your requirements. I look forward to your reply to enable this matter to be concluded or, should you wish, you could deal with the Argyll & Clyde Health Board directly.

Yours faithfully,



Information:

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Argyll & Clyde Health Board
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