

## Scottish Home and Health Department

United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation

Headquarters Caledonian Sector Craigiebarns Dundee DD4 7PJ

Telephone Dundee 454013

Ms M McDermott  
6 Glebe Crescent  
**ALYTH**  
Perthshire

Your reference

Our reference

C/WMO/1/29

Date

16 April 1987

Dear *Ms McDermott*

Thank you for your letter of 5 April.

I am indeed most happy to correspond, show or explain the work of this organisation to anyone expressing an interest.

If you really are deeply concerned about what "goes on" in our exercises then I should advise you that it is entirely pointless your visiting a monitoring post during an exercise as (a) there is next to nothing to actually see (b) it would interfere with the conduct of the exercise and (c) the personnel you met would be unable to answer any matter relating to policy beyond their own simple tasks. I have issued firm guidance to all volunteers throughout the whole of Scotland to avoid engaging in dialogue with any bystanders during exercises. That is not what they are there for and has been a generally fruitless and frustrating exchange viewed by either party. Due to incidents that have happened elsewhere they are also under strict instructions never to invite unauthorised personnel into the post.

I appreciate your feeling that you have a right to find out more about our exercises but I must ask you in turn to appreciate that our volunteers feel they should enjoy the right to pursue their voluntary work on behalf of the nation without being subjected to a barrage of questions and ill-informed comment. You may then justifiably exclaim, well how do I find out more about these exercises and what goes on in them. It was specifically to deal with this problem that all personnel were instructed to refer enquiries to me by passing my name and address to anyone interested.

I have been involved in this work for over 13 years now and as the senior full-time operational officer in Scotland I am in a better position to convey the application of the Government's policy to civil preparedness generally and the warning and monitoring organisation in particular.

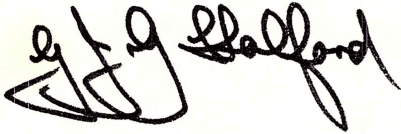
I have already conducted a party of your colleagues around the Sector Control, where there is much more to see, and briefed them fully on the structure and functions of this organisation. If you and your colleagues would really like to know more I am quite prepared to visit and repeat this briefing or tell you more about UKWMO exercises. As I live in Blairgowrie this is not likely to be an arduous journey.

You may return and visit the post on 21 June or any other day but irrespective of whether it is manned or not your presence will do little, I can assure you,

to further in any way your understanding or knowledge.

I trust that you will accept that I am going out of my way to be as helpful and co-operative as possible and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G J G Halford'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

G J G HALFORD  
Sector Controller