

Head of the Submarine Service Rear Admiral Ian Corder said:

Today the Royal Navy has released the Service Inquiry into the HMS ASTUTE grounding which occurred off the Isle of Skye on 22 October 2010. The Service Inquiry made ten recommendations, all of which I fully accept. The resulting remedial actions have either been completed or are underway.

In respect of individuals involved, having reviewed the Service Inquiry report (and Royal Navy Special Investigation Branch's findings), the Service considered all options, including court martial proceedings, and determined that the public interest was best met by internal disciplinary and administrative action. Internal disciplinary action was taken against one individual and administrative action against two others. The action taken was appropriate to their responsibility for the incident. We do not give details of the sanctions taken as this is a private matter between those concerned and the Naval Service.

The Submarine Service has learned from this incident. The report is very thorough and identifies all the contributing factors and I am confident that the incident is not indicative of wider failings. A thorough review of submarine navigation and associated training has already been conducted and I have ensured the inherent risks associated with such operations are kept as low as possible. Our submarines operate in the most demanding of environments which presents unique challenges. The ASTUTE class is the most advanced, capable and formidable submarine ever operated by the Royal Navy, and we continue to maintain our long tradition of successfully achieving missions world wide.