

Commander in Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Trevor Soar has said:

“Today the Royal Navy has released for publication the Service Inquiry into the flooding incident which took place onboard HMS ENDURANCE on the night of the 16 December 2008. The detailed report has identified a number of failings that lead to the uncontrollable flooding of the ship and makes 21 recommendations that I fully accept.

Work is continuing on the recommendations and so far we have completed 12. The Royal Navy remains committed to providing an Ice Patrol Ship capability in the South Atlantic and the remaining recommendations will be completed once the decision is made with regard to repairing or replacing HMS ENDURANCE.

Having reviewed the case the independent Service Prosecuting Authority has decided that there is insufficient evidence to merit legal action against any individual. However, I will be considering if any administrative action is warranted.

The Royal Navy has learned lessons from this incident. I have taken steps to ensure that the risks associated with this type of activity are minimised through improved guidance and training, though we must remember that the Royal Navy operates in a most challenging environment. The ships' company onboard HMS ENDURANCE at the time of the incident performed in an outstanding manner in the most difficult circumstances.”