



Ministry
of Defence

**Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
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Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
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Ref: FOI2018/02718

E-mail: navysef-foimailbox@mod.uk

Via email: [REDACTED]

28 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 February 2018 in which you requested the following information:

- 1) How many Mk11 depth charges were dropped a) on exercises b) on operations between F/Y2010 and FY 2016?
- 2) What is the cost of maintain the stockpile of the Mk11 depth charge for FY 2016?.

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information you require has been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that Some information in scope of your request is held.

However, regarding the first part of your requeston depth charges dropped on exercises, and operational usagebetween F/Y 2010 and 2016 however, the Department has determined that to provide this information will fall within the scope of the exemption at Section 26(1)(a) and (b) (Defence) of the Act. After careful consideration, and for the reasons set out below, it is concluded that the Department has no obligation under the Act to disclose this information and it is therefore being withheld in its entirety.

Under Section 26(1)(a) and (b), information is exempt if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice (a) the defence of the British Islands or (b) the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant Armed Forces. As this is a qualified exemption, the decision to disclose the requested material is subject to a public interest test. A public interest test has been conducted and it is considered that release of details of such incidents has the potential to compromise the current and future operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces' deterrent capability. It has been concluded that the public interest balance favours the information being withheld under this exemption.

With regard to your second query, it has been estimated that a total of some £123,000 has been spent on maintaining the MK 11 Depth Charge in FY 16.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact me 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-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made 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 Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section