



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
Navy Command Headquarters  
MP 1-4, Leach Building  
Whale Island  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO2 8BY

2016-03827

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

22 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 1 April 2016 which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*'Australia commenced a refugee push back policy called Operation Sovereign Borders in September 2013. I write to make a request for any and all recorded information held by the Royal Navy regarding consultations with Australian officials about Operation Sovereign Borders.*

*In particular I am requesting details of any UK Royal Navy personnel participation in Operation Sovereign Borders, for example by observing missions or whilst on exchange programmes.*

*I expect your search to cover any recorded information pertaining to this subject in the broadest possible sense e.g. emails, minutes, diary entries, papers, itineraries etc.'*

I can confirm that one individual took part in Operation Sovereign Borders however following an extensive search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I would suggest that you contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the address below who may be able to assist you further with your request:

FOI and DPA Team  
Information Management Department  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Room K4.10 – K4.13  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH  
e-mail [foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk)

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Zone N, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section