

## FOI Release

### *Information released under the Freedom of Information Act*

**Title:** Letter from Mike Hancock CBE MP to the Rt Hon. Michael Fallon MP dated 25 April 2014

**Date of release:** 21 August 2014

#### **Information request**

A scanned copy of the original letter from Mike Hancock CBE MP to the Rt Hon. Michael Fallon MP dated 25 April 2014, as mentioned in the letter published on 14 May 2013 on Mike Hancock CBE MP's website: <http://www.mikehancock.co.uk/uploads/scan862.pdf>.

#### **Information released**

A copy of the letter requested is attached. Please note that the letter was sent to the Secretary of State, Vince Cable, who asked the Rt Hon. Michael Fallon MP to respond to the letter in his role at the time, as the Minister for Portsmouth.

Fallon.

Mike Hancock CBE MP



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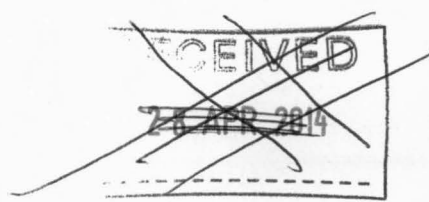
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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Right Honourable Vince Cable MP**  
**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**

Our Ref: HOC/MH/fm/

25<sup>th</sup> April 2014



Dear Vince,

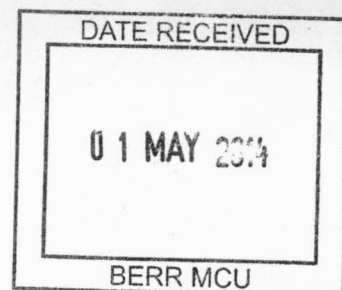
I am writing to you with regard to the recent announcement from the Chancellor that the UK is to get one of the most advanced polar research vessels in the world.

As you know I have been in regular discussions with Government officials, local business representatives and Portsmouth City Council concerning the future of Portsmouth shipyard. The announcement by BAE that it was to stop ship building operations in Portsmouth is resulting in the loss of 1,000 jobs, a highly skilled work force and the main source of income for hundreds of families in the city. I will not need to tell you how staunchly opposed to this decision I was – and remain so still – and much of my time since the decision was taken has been in trying to look at alternative ways forward that do not result in massive job losses while at the same time retaining the skilled workforce we have historically always had in Portsmouth.

This represents a massive opportunity to right the wrongs that were inflicted on the people of Portsmouth through no fault of their own. Government and commercial decisions dealt a hard blow to the city and this new ship provides the perfect chance to rectify this situation. I understand that EU regulations mean the Government will have to listen to bids from other countries who may wish to build the vessel. I would argue that it is absolutely essential that the Government do the right thing: Build the research vessel in the UK and put the Portsmouth dockyard and its workforce back into work and retain those shipbuilding skills before they are lost forever.

I very much look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely



MIKE HANCOCK CBE MP

SOMEONE WORKING FOR YOU

Two Advice Centres:  
Every Monday from 5.45-7pm at the City of Portsmouth Girls School. No appointment necessary.  
Saturdays by appointment. Please ring 92861055. Website: www.mikehancock.co.uk