



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

[REDACTED]  
Defence Equipment & Support  
Policy Secretariat (Submarines)  
Maple 0 #2043  
DE&S Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8JH



Our Reference:  
2014/00184

Your Reference:  
[REDACTED]

30 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Further to my email of 2 September 2014, I am writing to give you a substantive response to your request, which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested:

*'Safety culture workshop at the Submarine Safety Symposium, October 2013 where [REDACTED]; Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality at AWE gave a presentation. This is mentioned in the AWE Local Liaison Committee minutes (75) of meeting held on 11 December 2013. Please would you supply: Copies of the agenda, all presentations and all output reports/minutes from the symposium.'*

I can advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that a total of nine documents are held by the Ministry of Defence that fall within the scope of your request. Some of this information was redacted and released to you on the 8 August 2014.

When examining the remainder of the information that falls into scope, by virtue of section 10(3), public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request. Within these documents there is some sensitive information which has been redacted under the qualified exemptions sections 26 (Defence) and section 43(Commercial Guidance) as well as the absolute exemption section 40 (Personal Information). For the two qualified exemptions, before making these redactions, we considered, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lay in relation to the information that you have requested.

For section 26(1)(b), we looked at whether information within these documents, if disclosed, would prejudice defence or the capability or effectiveness of security or relevant forces. We considered that it would promote openness and transparency to release the documents in full and that additional information may provide reassurance to the public about nuclear submarine safety. However, to release this information in full would disclose information about the spatial arrangements of a submarine as well as the material grades and manufacturing process. We have determined that this would provide useful

information to hostile forces that would prejudice the defence of the UK and the effectiveness of the UK Armed Forces.

For Section 43(2), there is a public interest in MOD being as open as possible about nuclear defence matters and the Information Commissioner has previously noted that contractors working with the public sector should expect a higher level of scrutiny from taxpayers than if they were working in the private sector. However, on this occasion, there are ongoing commercial negotiations that would be prejudiced by the disclosure of some of the information which falls into the scope of your request.

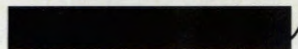
We are able to provide redacted documents to you, removing any information that is exempt under sections 26, 40 and 43. Please find attached these redacted documents which form our final and substantive response.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption so all personal information, such as names, photographs and telephone numbers of staff lower than the level of a military 1\*, have been withheld.

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, 1st Floor, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



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1. Leaflet detailing number of speakers and topics of presentation (MOD)
2. Presentation by RAdm Simon Lister (MOD, now Vice Admiral) – Opening Address
3. Presentation by Sheffield Forgemasters – People and Product Safety in a High Risk Industry
4. Presentation by Rolls-Royce – Learning from Experience
5. Presentation by Babcock M&T and BAE Systems – Product Safety
6. Presentation by Systems Planning and Analysis Inc – High Consequence Events
7. Presentation by RAdm Simon Lister (MOD, now Vice Admiral) – Closing Address
8. Presentation by EDF – People and Skills
9. Outcome report of the event (MOD)