

2014-07886

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15 December 2014

Dear

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 4 December 2014 requesting information on Chaplains at sea aboard submarines. Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information and taking your questions in turn:

- Q1. Can you inform me as to whether Chaplains serve at sea aboard submarines.
- A1. Chaplaincy provision to submarines is currently provided alongside with occasional short visits to sea currently <5 chaplains cover the SM fleet within the flotillas at Plymouth and Faslane.
- Q2. Can you also tell me how many Chaplains are qualified to wear the Submariner's "Dolphins" qualification badge?
- A2. Currently <5 Chaplains have their Dolphins.

Please note that to prevent the unintentional disclosure of an individuals identity any numbers of 5 or less are shown as <5.

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). 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