



Ministry of Defence

Ref. 2016/05046

**Navy Command FOI Section
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[REDACTED]
Via Email: [REDACTED]

8 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your Request for Information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 of 10 March 2016 requesting the following information:

'How many times has the Royal Naval been called out due to foreign warships straying into British territorial waters since the 1st January 2000.'

In response to your inquiry I can confirm that the Royal Navy has not been called out due to foreign warships "straying" into UK territorial waters.

Under Section 16 of the Act, duty to provide advice and assistance, I can explain that under the provisions of United Nations Council Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Article 17 foreign warships retain the right of innocent passage through territorial waters such as the Dover Strait, which is classed as an International Strait and such transits are routine.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N 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://.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Navy Command Secretariat FOI Section