



Ministry  
of Defence

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Your reference:

Our reference:  
FOI201509090

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016

e-mail:

Dear

Further to my letter of 13 January 2016, I am writing to give you a substantive response to your request.

*How many nuclear safety events have been recorded by the Nuclear Propulsion Project Team at Her Majesty's Naval Base in Devonport in each of the last five years?*

*What category was each event and what did it involve?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that all of the information in scope of your request is held.

A summary of the information you have requested can be found in Annex A. Please note that there have been 60 nuclear safety events that have all registered as level 0 (below scale) on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES), which is defined as "no safety significance" and no events above level 0.

The INES is a worldwide tool designed by the International Atomic Energy Agency as a means of communicating to the public, in a consistent way, the safety significance of nuclear and radiological events. For further information on the INES please use the following link: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/ines.asp>

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance), I would like to inform you that the INES level assigned to a small number of events, marked as preliminary in the above tables, may change once a series of assessments and valuations for those specific events has been finalised. It is important to view the volume of minor events given here in the appropriate context; a healthy, open and honest reporting culture is an essential element of an effective and pro-active safety culture.

It may be useful to note that events reported as 'nuclear procedure non-compliance', of which there are seventeen (x17), can cover a range of minor non-nuclear safety related deviations, either written or verbal control events, arising from the conduct of work specified under a Nuclear Procedure. All Nuclear Procedures are officially approved by a

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Procedural Authorisation Group (PAG). The PAG considers and approves any changes that become necessary during the conduct of a Nuclear Procedure, for example, Maintenance, Repair and Reliability. Any deviation, no matter how small, in the conduct of work specified under a Nuclear Procedure is reported to the PAG and an event is recorded.

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.org.uk>.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

**Table 1: Summary of Nuclear Reactor Plant Authorisee Events / Near Miss Reports  
from 17 Oct 10 to 16 Oct 15**

Year	INES Scale		Comments
	0	1	
2014-15	8	0	Table 2
2013-14	18	0	Table 3
2012-13	11	0	Table 4
2011-12	12	0	Table 5
2010-11	11	0	Table 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	60	0	

**Table 2: Nuclear Reactor Plant Authorisee Events Occurring at HMNB Devonport  
from 17 Oct 14 – 16 Oct 15**

Serial	Date & Location	Description	INES Level
1	04 Feb 15 HMNB Devonport	Defect on a non-reactor component resulting in the decision to conduct a controlled reactor shut down	0
2	12 Mar 15 HMNB Devonport	Missed maintenance on pipework connection	0 <sup>1</sup>
3	10 Apr 15 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
4	20 Apr 15 HMNB Devonport	Legacy tags in submarine	0 <sup>1,2</sup>
5	21 Jun 15 HMNB Devonport	Personnel out of date for continuation training	0
6	11 Aug 15 HMNB Devonport	Shortcoming in the handling of non-contaminated lagging material	0 <sup>1</sup>
7	13 Aug 15 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of Electrical Off Shore Supplies (EOSS) with no effect on cooling function	0 <sup>1</sup>
8	01 Oct 15 HMNB Devonport	Non-compliance with facility documentation	0 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is only a preliminary rating as this event report has not yet been through the Event Report Assessment Group.

<sup>2</sup> This means old markings/labels that were put in place for previous maintenance and then had not been removed after this work was completed

**Table 3: Nuclear Reactor Plant Authorisee Events Occurring at HMNB Devonport  
from 17 Oct 13 – 16 Oct 14**

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Date &amp; Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>INES Level</b>
1	21 Oct 13 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
2	31 Oct 13 HMNB Devonport	Missed maintenance item	0
3	15 Nov 13 HMNB Devonport	Failure to disconnect fresh water supply	0
4	14 Jan 14 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
5	24 Jan 14 HMNB Devonport	Controlled shutdown during start-up procedure	0
6	03 Feb 14 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
7	04 Feb 14 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
8	18 Feb 14 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
9	04 Apr 14 HMNB Devonport	Contained spill during hose disconnection	0
10	22 Apr 14 HMNB Devonport	Bilge system valve in incorrect line-up	0
11	16 Jun 14 HMNB Devonport	Inadvertent valve operation	0
12	16 Jun 14 HMNB Devonport	Delayed availability of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
13	20 Jun 14 HMNB Devonport	Contained spillage of coolant whilst conducting a valve repair	0
14	04 Jul 2014 HMNB Devonport	Contained spill in the submarine whilst handling a test rig	0
15	05 Jul 14 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
16	30 Jul 14 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0

Serial	Date & Location	Description	INES Level
17	05 Aug 14 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
18	19 Aug 14 HMNB Devonport	Routine water sampling undertaken outwith specified interval	0

**Table 4: Nuclear Reactor Plant Authorisee Events Occurring at HMNB Devonport from 17 Oct 12 – 16 Oct 13**

Serial	Date & Location	Description	INES Level
1	19 Oct 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
2	04 Nov 12 HMNB Devonport	Damage noted during component removal	0
3	11 Nov 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
4	18 Jan 13 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
5	04 Feb 13 HMNB Devonport	Component defect leading to a small contained leak	0
6	13 Mar 13 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
7	16 Apr 13 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
8	25 Apr 13 HMNB Devonport	Failure to correctly maintain the procedure Parallel Working Log	0
9	09 May 13 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
10	27 Jun 13 HMNB Devonport	Non-compliance with work Logic	0
11	11 Sep 13 HMNB Devonport	Routine water sampling undertaken outwith specified interval	0

**Table 5: Nuclear Reactor Plant Authorisee Events Occurring at HMNB Devonport  
from 17 Oct 11 – 16 Oct 12**

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Date &amp; Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>INES Level</b>
1	09 Jan 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
2	10 Jan 12 HMNB Devonport	Bilge suction valve left open	0
3	02 Mar 12 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
4	19 Apr 12 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
5	12 May 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
6	18 May 12 HMNB Devonport	Low level of Tritium measured in a drain tank	0
7	19 May 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
8	11 Jun 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
9	11 Jun 12 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
10	29 Jul 12 HMNB Devonport	Delays to restoration of electrical supplies of approx. 20 minutes	0
11	19 Aug 12 HMNB Devonport	Leak from test rig	0
12	21 Aug 12 HMNB Devonport	Routine water sampling undertaken outwith specified interval	0

**Table 6: Nuclear Reactor Plant Authorisee Events Occurring at HMNB Devonport  
from 17 Oct 10 – 16 Oct 11**

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Date &amp; Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>INES Level</b>
1	28 Nov 10 HMNB Devonport	Use of an overage component without concession	0

Serial	Date & Location	Description	INES Level
2	14 Dec 10 HMNB Devonport	Incorrect valve line up resulting in non-contaminated water draining overboard	0
3	19 Jan 11 HMNB Devonport	Maintenance incorrectly reported as complete	0
4	31 Jan 11 HMNB Devonport	Nuclear procedure non-compliance	0
5	04 Feb 11 HMNB Devonport	Concession granted without necessary assessment being conducted	0
6	29 Mar 11 HMNB Devonport	Gasket left in hull opening	0
7	13 May 11 HMNB Devonport	Incorrect use of submarine class procedure for maintenance	0
8	17 Jun 11 HMNB Devonport	Valve failed to reseal during routine maintenance testing	0
9	27 Jun 11 HMNB Devonport	Unexpected water chemistry response during dosing	0
10	18 Aug 11 HMNB Devonport	Partial loss of EOSS with no effect on cooling function	0
11	29 Sep 11 HMNB Devonport	Identification of defective equipment during routine maintenance	0