



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
MP 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY

FOI 2015/07523

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Mr [REDACTED]

Via email [REDACTED]

25 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2015 which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. You requested the following information:

'Please would you be kind enough to provide me with a copy of the MoD report pertaining to the vaccinations and medications washed ashore on the uK Bridport beach 2003 as reported on by the Sir Trevor MacDonald Programme by Mr Asif assan.

Please provide me with a copy drugs washed ashore and contents and reasons for prescribing them.'

I am writing to advise you that despite an extensive search across the Ministry of Defence it has not been possible to locate the MoD report you have requested. However, in order to provide some assistance to you in this matter as required by section 16 of the FOI Act, we have conducted searches on the internet which have revealed a Department of Health Health Protection Agency (now Public Health England) report - its "Chemical Hazard and Poisons Report" for 2003 which contains information about the discovery at West Bay, Bridport in January 2003. The report is accessible at the link below, and the particular incident has coverage in pages 11 – 14.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090104225516/http://hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1200471564295?p=1158945066435

Regarding the second query in your request, the Health Protection Agency report lists the medications that were found. These are shown below and, in response to your second query, Navy Command Medical Division has provided a brief description of what these drugs are prescribed for:

1. **Anthrax vaccine** – this is an inactivated vaccine which means that the anthrax component would not cause harm or an anthrax outbreak. This is held in the MOD in this instance in the case of attack with the anthrax microbe (biological warfare); it would be prescribed onboard ship for post-exposure immunisation.
2. **Dimercaptopropanol** – this is a chelating agent which is stored as an antidote in case of heavy metal poisoning.
3. **Unidentified nasal spray** – from the shape of the bottle this is probably an anti-inflammatory spray that is prescribed for allergies.
4. **Fenbid** – an anti-inflammatory drug that would have been prescribed for pain relief.
5. **Erythromycin** – a widely prescribed antibiotic.
6. **Prednisolone injection** – an anti-inflammatory injection prescribed for various conditions.

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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section