



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI 2015/11679

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[REDACTED]

Via email: [REDACTED]

7 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

Thank you for your email dated Saturday 17 December 2015 requesting the following information:

"Please supply all documentation which relates to the recent approval of Satanism and/or Luciferianism as a 'religion' or form of worship / valid religion for use on Royal Navy vessels. Please ensure that the names are included, identifying all public officials whom were instrumental/responsible in the issuing and instigation of the decision to permit this "religion's" use aboard Navy vessels, when the policy was instigated and any policy documents relating to the matter.

If the decision was not specific to the Royal Navy but relates to any or all armed forces in the UK, then please supply the relevant documentation for this as an alternative to the specific request above."

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that no 'approval' of Satanism/luciferianism as a religion has been issued by the Royal Navy. The Armed Forces regard personal beliefs as a private matter, and what is done in an individual's own time is also regarded as a private matter, as long as it does not offend others, affect operational effectiveness or create an adverse impact on the reputation of the Armed Forces. However, we do not recognise satanism as a formal religion, and will not grant facilities or make specific time available for individual 'worship'.

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 this office 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section