

UNCLASSIFIED



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
DE&S Policy Secretariat Ships

Maple 0a #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH

Tel: 0117 913 2382
Fax: 0117 913 0902



Email: DESSEC-PolSecShipsandsubs@mod.uk



Please reply to:

Our Reference:
FOI2015/05635

Date: 29 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 June 2015 in response to our request of the same date that you redefine your original request for information about the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP). This was to bring the response within the £600 cost limit. Your redefined request asked for: details of total spending over the last five years on studies, environmental impact assessments and public consultations relating to:

1. The interim storage of decommissioned RN submarines
2. The proposed recycling of those submarines, and
3. The final disposal and storage sites for those reactors removed

I am treating this refined request as a new request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and can confirm that the MOD holds the information you have requested. The details are outlined in the tables in the attached Annex.

Section 16 of the FOI Act requires public authorities to provide help and assistance in dealing with requests for information. Under this section of the Act, I hope you will find it helpful if I clarify how I have interpreted the individual elements of your request. As you will be aware, when a nuclear powered submarine leaves service with the Royal Navy, it is laid-up at either Rosyth Royal Dockyard or HM Naval Base Devonport before coming under the remit of the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP). One of the principal aims of the SDP is to identify a site for the storage of the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) from these decommissioned and defuelled Royal Navy submarines, and these RPVs are classed as Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW). The site we choose will store the ILW for an interim period, until a planned Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) becomes available sometime after 2040.

So, in considering Part 1 of your request, I have interpreted the term 'interim storage' as the laying up of the submarines at Rosyth Royal Dockyard and HM Naval Base Devonport, and I have taken the term 'final disposal' in Part 3 of your request as relating to the site that will store the ILW until a GDF is available. If you have any questions about how I have interpreted your request, please contact me at the email address above, quoting our reference.

Should you have any questions relating to the establishment of a GDF, the lead Government Department is the Department of Energy and Climate Change. You can read about the public consultation on this project at the Gov.UK website which is at the following link. [Geological Disposal Facility siting process review - Consultations - GOV.UK](#)

Defence Equipment & Support

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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>



Expenditure on Studies, Environmental Impact Assessments and Public Consultations
2010-11 to 2014-15

The figures quoted in the following tables cover the costs of work carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) by contractors appointed to support the Submarine Dismantling Project in the areas relating to your request. They do not include the costs of MOD staff support to this work. Work by the MOD into the proposed recycling of decommissioned and defuelled Royal Navy submarines is being carried out but to date, no external expenditure has been incurred

Expenditure on Studies

	Total (£K)
Storage of laid-up Royal Navy (RN) submarines	120 (See Note 1)
Proposed recycling of decommissioned and defuelled RN submarines	Nil
Interim disposal and storage sites for reactors removed from decommissioned and defuelled RN submarines	Nil

Expenditure on Environmental Impact Assessments

	Total (£K)
Storage of laid-up Royal Navy (RN) submarines	Nil (see Note1)
Proposed recycling of decommissioned and defuelled RN submarines	Nil
Interim disposal and storage sites for reactors removed from decommissioned and defuelled RN submarines	46

Expenditure on Public Consultations

	Total (£K)
Storage of laid-up Royal Navy (RN) submarines	Nil
Proposed recycling of decommissioned and defuelled RN submarines	Nil
Interim disposal and storage sites for reactors removed from decommissioned and defuelled RN submarines	337

Note

- The studies into the storage of laid-up submarines at HM Naval Base Devonport did not include a specific Environmental Impact Assessment although they did consider some aspects of the impact on the environment. Our records do not allow these costs to be separately identified and are included in the overall figure