



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
Defence Equipment & Support
Policy Secretariat (Submarines)
Maple 0 #2043
DE&S Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH
[REDACTED]



Our reference:
FOI2014/03890

19 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to give you an update on this request for information:

Please could you tell me why the defuelling of out of service nuclear submarines at the Devonport based finished after the defuelling of HMS Valiant around 2002? When is defuelling likely to recommence on the eight submarines waiting to be defueled?

Defuelling of decommissioned submarines was suspended in 2004 pending installation of new facilities as required by the Nuclear Regulatory Authorities. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) stipulated that no further defuelling would be permitted in Devonport (the only feasible UK location) until latest standards facilities were provided. We are carrying out the modernisation work as required by the ONR but this project is extremely complex in nature and will take some time to complete. We remain fully committed to restarting the defuelling of our ex-Royal Navy nuclear submarines as soon as possible.

In response to the second half of your request, no date is currently agreed for defuelling to begin again at Devonport. Therefore, this information is not held by the MOD. I apologise that on this occasion we have not answered your request as quickly as the Act requires.

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,

[REDACTED]
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