



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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7 October 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13 September 2016 requesting the following information:

'Could you please supply:

- Q1. *The date on which it was decided to dispose of RFA Diligence?*
- Q2. *The date on which RFA Diligence was removed from service?*
- Q3. *The reason that RFA Diligence was removed from service?*
- Q4. *The reason in December 2015 the OSD of RFA Diligence was given as 2020 if the vessel had already ceased operational service by that date?*
- Q5. *The reason that no announcement was made of the removal from service of RFA Diligence?*
- Q6. *What alternative provision is being made for the repair and maintenance of ships and submarines operating away from their home ports in the UK provided by RFA Diligence as currently described on the MoD website*
<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/our-organisation/the-fighting-arms/royal-fleet-auxiliary/forward-repair-ship/rfa-diligence>
- Q7. *At what stage are the consideration of options to deliver the capabilities formerly provided by RFA Diligence?*
- Q8. *When an announcement of the replacement of capabilities formerly provided by RFA Diligence will be made?*

Q9. The cost of the refit on RFA Diligence in March 2015 and the nature of the work carried out?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Department holds some of the information that you have requested and the responses to your questions are attached at Annex A to this letter, some of the information you have requested is available on Government Websites and where this is the case the hyperlinks to the websites have been provided as part of the answer.

The Ministry of Defence is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As the information you requested is already available to the public we have assessed your request falls under the absolute exemption at section 21 – Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means – of the Act. Consequently, we are not obliged to provide you with a copy of the information.

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, Zone K, 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

Q1. The date on which it was decided to dispose of RFA Diligence?

A1. The decision was taken by the Royal Navy in June 2016.

Q2. The date on which RFA Diligence was removed from service?

A2. RFA DILIGENCE will remain in service until December 2016:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-06/HL1597/>

Q3. The reason that RFA Diligence was removed from service?

A3. The decision to remove RFA DILIGENCE from service was taken after consideration of her age and increasing obsolescence, and ensuring value for money for the taxpayer.

Q4. The reason in December 2015 the OSD of RFA Diligence was given as 2020 if the vessel had already ceased operational service by that date?

A4. At the time of the FOI release in December 2015 RFA DILIGENCE was still in service, with a planned out of service date of 2020.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484506/2015-10463_FOI_Request.pdf

Q5. The reason that no announcement was made of the removal from service of RFA Diligence?

A5. RFA DILIGENCE remains in service, however, on 4 August 2016 the Disposal Services Authority advertised a 'Notice of the potential sale of the former RFA Diligence for future use'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-of-sale-former-rfa-diligence-a-forward-repair-ship>

Q6. What alternative provision is being made for the repair and maintenance of ships and submarines operating away from their home ports in the UK provided by RFA Diligence as currently described on the MoD website?

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/our-organisation/the-fighting-arms/royal-fleet-auxiliary/forward-repair-ship/rfa-diligence>

A6. The Forward Repair Ship is one component of a system providing support facilities to deployed ships and submarines. This support is regularly supplemented by commercial arrangements and international agreements for resources and facilities either not available within MOD or more effectively provided by third parties. When bespoke afloat capabilities

are required, these are contracted on the open commercial market. This support solution is not dependent upon DILIGENCE and has proven effective.

We continue to consider all our capability requirements, depending on the operational task.

Q7. At what stage are the consideration of options to deliver the capabilities formerly provided by RFA Diligence?

A7. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45203/>

Q8. When an announcement of the replacement of capabilities formerly provided by RFA Diligence will be made?

A8. We continue to consider all our capability requirements, depending on the operational task.

Q9. The cost of the refit on RFA Diligence in March 2015 and the nature of the work carried out?

A9. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-06/HL1596/>