



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: FOI2016/09494

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: navysef-foimailbox@mod.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

20th October 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 12th October 2016 requesting the following information:

- 1) How many days has the Royal Navy Fisheries Protection Squadron spent at sea in the current contract year 2016/17, up to the date of your request?*
- 2) For each month of the year, please state how many inspections of vessels have been carried out and how many vessels have been boarded?*
- 3) In each case, please state how many of the ships inspected/boarded were British and how many were foreign. For foreign ships, please state the nationality. Please also state the reason for the inspection.*
- 4) Please state how many of these inspected/boarded ships were found to have broken UK or EU law? In each case, please state the nationality of the ship and which law was broken.*
- 5) Please state, in each case, whether a verbal warning was issued, a written warning or a financial administrative penalty handed out. Please state in each case whether the vessel was detained at sea or at a UK port.*
- 6) Please state for the year how many times the FPS has been called to deal with disputes between British and foreign vessels, and British v British vessels. In each case, please state the nationality of the foreign vessel.*
- 7) Please provide detail of each incident and the nature of the dispute, and whether it involved the fouling nets, ramming or attempted ramming, or disruption to fishing, shining searchlights into bridges or firing flareguns, or verbal threats.*
- 8) Please provide the same information for each financial year prior to 2016/17, as far back as can be done within the cost limits of the Act.*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The information we are able to provide can be found below:

Q1) How many days has the Royal Navy Fisheries Protection Squadron spent at sea in the current contract year 2016/17, up to the date of your request?

Ships of the RN Fishery Protection Squadron have spent **137 days** at sea during this agreement year, 1 April 16 to 12 October 16 conducting scheduled Fishery Protection activity.

Please note the Ministry of Defence has an agreement rather than a contract with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

With regard to the recorded information held for each financial year on Fishery Protection activities, this is routinely published by the MOD on the GOV.UK website which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-aid-to-civil-authorities-statistics-index>

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.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act – Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance, the other information that you have requested can be sought from the MMO who licence, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas around England and Wales so as to ensure they are carried out in a sustainable way. A link to the MMO website can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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