



Ministry
of Defence

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Via email: [REDACTED]

12 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2016, which requested the following information:

“Thank you for your letter reference 2015/11771 sent via email on 12th January 2016 requesting clarification of a recent FOI request. In this context I intend “humanitarian” to include all of the examples listed in your letter, such as assistance to outbreaks of disease, providing aid and assistance after natural disasters, and assisting with the migrant crisis.

The original request is repeated below for your convenience:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1. The cost of humanitarian operations conducted by the Royal Navy for the last five financial years.*
- 2. List of Royal Navy and RFA ships that have been involved in humanitarian operations in the last five financial years.*
- 3. Number of ship-days spent on humanitarian operations in each of the last five financial years.*
- 4. The average cost of a ship-day for each of the above ships.”*

Your inquiry is being treated as a request for information under 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. Each of your queries is answered in turn below.

Information regarding your first three queries is included in the table at Annex A to this letter. The table provides a list of Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Fleet Auxillary (RFA) ships engaged in humanitarian operations over the past five years.

Regarding the costs of these operations, the earliest listed were treated as core activity (i.e. swept up in normal monthly accounts) and not assigned to specific events. More recently, and indeed for most of the activities listed, costs have been identified for various purposes including recovery from other Government Departments and categorised under a number of headings noted in the table as follows:

Full costs	– all consumables and all staff costs
Marginal costs	– all consumables but excluding staff salaries
Net Additional costs	– only costs that exceed any programmed activity (eg. Only fuel used in excess of normal budgeted use).

Regarding your fourth query about the average cost of a ship-day for each of the ships involved, please see Annex B to this letter. This provides, with a number of notes defining more exactly what costs are included, a ship-day figure for most of the vessels involved. It has not been possible to provide a ship-day figure for four RN vessels that did engage in humanitarian operations and are listed as such at Annex A, but which were decommissioned before the costs were compiled so are not available for the Type 42 Destroyers HMS Manchester and HMS York, the Type 22 Frigate HMS Cumberland and the Helicopter Carrier HMS Illustrious.

I hope this is helpful. 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

RN Support to Non-Combatant Evacuation and Humanitarian Disaster Relief Operations 2010-2015

Date of Operation	No of Days	Area of Operation	Operation	Ships involved	Description of Operation	Cost
Apr 2010		Spain	Operation "Cunningham"	HMS ALBION	Rescue of military and civilian personnel from Santander when flights were cancelled as a result of the ash cloud from the eruption of a volcano in Iceland	
29 Aug – 7 Sep 2010		Eastern Caribbean		HMS MANCHESTER	Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Contingency Patrol in the Eastern Caribbean during the early stages of Hurricane "Earl"	
18-20 Sep 2010		Caribbean		HMS MANCHESTER	Humanitarian Disaster Relief Contingency transit to Bermuda in the wake of Hurricane "Igor", but damage to the island fortunately light	
20 Sep 2010		Tortola		RFA WAVE RULER	Humanitarian assistance in Tortola following mudslides during heavy rainfall	
Sep 2010		West Indies		HMS MANCHESTER	HDRO contingency patrol off Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands following Hurricane Earl. HDRO contingency patrol of Bermuda following Hurricane Igor	
2-6 Nov 2010		Caribbean		HMS MANCHESTER RFA WAVE RULER	Humanitarian disaster relief operations and support to St. Lucia and Turks and Caicos in wake off Tropical Storm Tomas	
7-8 Nov 2010		Haiti		RFA WAVE RULER	Support to US forces conducting humanitarian disaster relief operations in Haiti	
23 Feb - Mar 2011		Libya	Operation "Deference"	HMS YORK HMS CUMBERLAND HMS WESTMINSTER RFA BAYLEAF RFA ARGUS 824 NAS	Naval evacuation of British National and Entitled Persons from Benghazi	
23-26 Aug 2011		Turks and Caicos		RFA WAVE RULER	Disaster relief operations in the Turks and Caicos Islands following Hurricane Irene	

24-27 Aug 2012	Anguilla		RFA ARGUS	Wider Regional Engagement visit including aerial surveys of the island to survey damage in the wake of Tropical Storm "Isaac"	
22-23 Nov 2012	Caribbean		RFA ARGUS	Delivery of 200 DFID Shelter Kits to Jamaica following Hurricane Sandy	
11-25 Nov 2013	Philippines	Operation "Patwin"	HMS DARING	Following devastation caused in the Philippines by Typhoon Haiyan, HMS DARING sent to deliver Humanitarian Disaster Relief. On 24 November alone, during 8.5 flyable daylight hours, DARING's helicopter delivered over 8 tonnes of aid to 8 different locations in the islands North East of Panay. Ship's personnel also delivered urgent relief to the islands of Guintacan and Isla de Cañas, assessed as having severe damage to infrastructure	£7.111M Marginal costs
14-15 Nov 2013	Horn of Africa		HMS ILLUSTRIOUS HMAS MELBOURNE	Tasked to investigate the fishing grounds south of Socotra to assess the impact of Tropical Cyclone 03A	
25 Nov – 10 Dec 2013	Philippines	Operation "Patwin"	HMS ILLUSTRIOUS 'J' Coy, 42 Cdo RM	HMS ILLUSTRIOUS sent to relieve HMS DARING and provide further significant uplift in HADR assistance and stores. Philippine officials directed ILLUSTRIOUS to operate in the islands NE of Panay, where approximately 10,000 people received aid and assistance and 180 tons of stores were delivered. The embarked aircraft flew 77 sorties and made 465 deck landings, moving 194 underslung loads and 709 passengers. Assessments were also made of the islands West and East of Panay where work was undertaken to clear wreckage and repair key public buildings	See above
7 Feb – Mar 2014	UK	Operation "Pitchpole"	Naval Personnel	Military personnel supported flood relief efforts throughout the south west of England. ILLUSTRIOUS contributed 200 personnel per day; BULWARK had 100 personnel on standby; 50 personnel from LANCASTER were used to fill sand bags along the Itchen River bank in Romsey	£422K Full Personnel Costs
24 Mar – 16 Apr	Southern Indian Ocean	Operation "Trenchmore"	HMS ECHO HMS TIRELESS	Tasked with joining international efforts to recover the Flight Deck Recorder from Malaysian Airlines	£582K Fuel

2014					Flight MH370 in the Southern Indian Ocean	
3-5 Aug 2014	Libya	Operation "Overleap"	HMS ENTERPRISE		During continuing civil unrest in Libya ENTERPRISE committed to Operation "Overleap", conducting two non-combatant evacuation extractions of a total of 203 Entitled Persons as well as the 12 personnel of the Defence Advisory Training Team. Entitled Persons landed at Valletta	£150K Net Additional Costs
18 Oct 2014 – Apr 2015	Sierra Leone	Operation "Gritrock"	RFA ARGUS 3 x Merlin of 820 Naval Air Squadron 28 personnel from 42 Commando RM Elements of 539 ASRM & 17 Port and Maritime Regiment		Deployed from the UK to Sierra Leone to support UK's DFID-led mission to contain the spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone. ARGUS departed Falmouth with DFID stores, Merlin of 820 Naval Air Squadron and Landing Craft of 539 ASRM embarked as well as an R2 (Enhanced) PCRFB Capability	£3.118M Marginal Cost to DFID. £0.08M to MOD
18-22 Oct 2014	Bermuda		HMS ARGYLL		Following the passage of Hurricane "Gonzalo" ARGYLL re-tasked to sail to Bermuda with Humanitarian Disaster Relief supplies in response to a request from the Bermudan Government. Island not as badly effected as anticipated, but manpower provided ashore to help clear roads and public spaces of debris	Core Activity.
1 May – 8 Jul 2015	Mediterranean	Operation "Weald"	COMATG HMS BULWARK 'Y' Coy 45 Commando RM 814 Naval Air Squadron		Following the deaths of over 700 refugee migrants from a boat capsized in the Mediterranean, the Prime Minister directed that support be given to the European Union Search and Rescue operations. Operation "Weald" was initiated and COMATG Staff embarked in BULWARK in Italy. Three Merlin Mark 2 helicopters of 814 Naval Air Squadron were simultaneously established at Sigonella Air Base in Sicily	£2.084M Marginal Costs to DFID. £0.495 Equipment Plan costs to DFID.
8 Jul 2015 to date	Central Mediterranean	Operation "Litter"	HMS ENTERPRISE HMS RICHMOND 814 Naval Air Squadron		Commencement of UK contribution to EU Mission 778/2015 under the PJHQ Operation "Litter". ENTERPRISE, and later RICHMOND, tasked towards Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance operations as well as SOLAS taskings	

31 Aug – 7 Sep 2015		Caribbean		RFA LYME BAY	As APT(N) platform activated to undertake humanitarian disaster relief operations in Dominica	
5-9 Oct 2015		Bahamas		RFA LYME BAY	Undertook Humanitarian Disaster Relief Operations in Crooked Island, Acklins Island and Long Island	

Average Operating Costs for Ships engaged in Humanitarian Operations

Ship Class	Average Annual Operating Cost per Ship (£M)	Average Operational cost per Ship Day (£M)
HMS Albion	23.975	0.0657
RFA Wave Ruler	9.183	0.0252
HMS Westminster (Type 23 Frigate)	11.735	0.0322
RFA Argus	8.887	0.0243
RFA Bayleaf	5.667	0.0155
HMS Daring	14.764	0.0404
HMS Echo	5.460	0.0150
HMS Tireless	11.709	0.0321
HMS Enterprise	5.460	0.0150
HMS Argyll (Type 23 Frigate)	11.735	0.0322
HMS Richmond (Type 23 Frigate)	11.735	0.0322
HMS Bulwark	23.975	0.0657
RFA Lyme Bay	8.170	0.0224

Notes

- a. These costs include only those directly attributable to the ship – personnel, fuel etc.

The costst do not include:

- a. Maritime Domain Maintenance costs
- b. Central Allowances - Continuity of Education etc
- c. Overheads for common services
- d. Support costs for Naval Bases
- e. Support costs from other MOD TLBs
- f. Central costs i.e. IT and Comms
- g. Aircraft costs
- h. Training and Generation costs

