



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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2015-08344

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[REDACTED]

1 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your communication of 26 September 2015 requesting the following information:

1. *A list of all current privileged ensigns granted by the Secretary of State for Defence.*
2. *The current policy on the granting of new privileged ensigns.'*

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 information you have requested in the first part of your request is contained within The Navy List Section 6 which is available from the Royal Navy Website via the following link:

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/~media/royal%20navy%20responsive/documents/useful%20resources/navy%20list.pdf>

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 the information.

For the second part of your request I am able to confirm that since 1952 it has been official policy, confirmed by the Admiralty Board in 1983 and in 1997, that new applications for privileged status (and General Warrants) will only be approved by the Secretary of State, under powers authorised in section 2(3) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 in very exceptional circumstances.

Under Section 16(Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance) I have provided a link to the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 Section 2(3) below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/21/section/2>

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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