



Ministry  
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (LD & SE)

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Defence Equipment & Support  
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Bristol BS34 8JH



6 September 2017  
Our Reference: FOI2017/08009

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 15 August 2017. You asked:

***I am interested in finding out more information about the process that DSA uses to qualify non-UK yards for ship recycling. I am particularly interested in any information that you have related to the Leyal yard in Turkey which I believe was used to recycle numerous MOD vessels. I am also interested how DSA assesses social and community health impacts of ship recycling outside of the yards.***

I am treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

With effect from 1 September 2017, the Disposal Services Authority (DSA) changed its name to the Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA). The new name forms part of a business change programme that will improve the services, which DESA provides to its customers. DESA, part of the MOD, is responsible for the sale and disposal of all surplus equipment including ships.

In 2007 the UK Government published its Ship Recycling Strategy which committed the UK to recycling its vessels according to the Basel convention (disposal of hazardous waste) and gave due consideration to environmental and health and safety factors as well as price. Ships are sold in accordance with this strategy, which allow offers from companies who propose to recycle within member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (Turkey is a member). This is consistent with MOD's commitment to fair and open competition in both procurement and sales.

As part of the DESA Ship Recycling Tender process interested parties are required to complete a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ), this is a lengthy document and covers subjects such as:

- Economic & Financial Standing
- Technical & Professional ability (including quality, Health & Safety and environmental matters)
- Defence Sector and project specific questions

Potential purchasers will only be invited to Tender if they satisfy the criteria in the PQQ. The Tender will then detail the commercial and technical requirements together with the evaluation criteria to be used. Once the Tender submissions have been made they are independently evaluated by various bodies and award of the contract will be made to the bidder who has submitted a compliant bid and achieved the top combined marks.

During the recycling process DESA undertake site visits to ensure the work is carried out in accordance with the agreed ship recycling plan and in compliance with the UK Environmental Protection Act 1990, as well as monitoring the MOD's legal Duty of Care obligations relating to the disposal of waste. In addition to the site visits, the recycling company is required to submit monthly progress reports.

Once the vessel has been completely recycled DESA produces a report detailing all aspects of the task, including a final outturn against the Inventory of Hazardous Material. These reports are published on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/disposal-services-authority>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours Sincerely,

  
DE&S Secretariat