



Ministry of Defence

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: FOI2017/04674

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

12 May 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17 April 2017 requesting the following information:

*'Visiting Cornwall fairly regularly I am interested to know how the rank of The Commanding Officer at RNAS Culdrose is arrived at.
Having served there from time to time over many years, the Commanding Officer's rank was always Captain.
From time to time now I see a Commodore's Pennant flying.
How is this change of rank determined? Ship's Company size? Number of operational Squadrons? Or is it on The Gash Hand Principle?'*

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 Ministry of Defence holds information in scope of your request. In response to your questions, I am able to tell you that the rank of the Commanding Officer at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culdrose remains as a Captain Royal Navy. With regard to the occasions when the Commodore's Pennant is raised, this will be during a formal or non-routine visit to the base by an Officer of Flag rank.

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, Ground Floor, Zone D, 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