



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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2017-00455

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1 February 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 January 2017 requesting the following information:

'1. Was a full investigation carried out on what effect the new HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier will have on the people living on the Gosport peninsula when it arrives at Portsmouth Naval Base?

I would like to know if it will;

2. Block out light to the people living in or around Royal Clarence Yard, Priddy's Hard and others near the Portsmouth Harbour.

3. If it will produce noise pollution for people living in or around Royal Clarence Yard, Priddy's Hard and others near the Portsmouth Harbour.

4. If it will produce environmental pollution for people living in or around Royal Clarence Yard, Priddy's Hard and others near the Portsmouth Harbour.

5. If there has been a report, could I please obtain a copy?'

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 Department does hold some information within the scope of your request. Taking questions 1, 4 & 5 together I can confirm that the Queen Elizabeth Carrier EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) including (Environmental Statement, Non-Technical Summary and Appendices) plus the decision documents can be found on the Marine Management Organisation webpage under Public Register: Licence Ref: MLA/2012/00474/8.

The information you have requested is available on the Government Website via the following link:

https://marinelicensing.marinemangement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGIS-TER

Once on the webpage enter the Licence Reference number and then click on the tab 'Marine Licence Applications and Requests'.

Then enter MLA/2012/00474/8 into the search box.

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.

For questions 2 & 3 I can confirm that no information is held. However, under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, I can firstly confirm that although the aircraft carriers are considerably larger than previous classes, given that their berths are located 900 metres from the nearest buildings on the western harbour in Gosport their presence is not anticipated to result in any loss of light or amenity to residents on the Gosport waterfront. Secondly, I can advise that when moored on their berths the vessels will be connected to a shore-generated power supply, so the only noticeable difference in noise levels should be that from when the engines are in use for entering or leaving the harbour which should be transitory.

Under section 16(Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act I can provide you with the following link regarding the Queen Elizabeth carrier and its benefits to the local community.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aircraft-carrier-what-you-need-to-know/about-aircraft-carrier>

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