



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: FOI2017/02984

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3rd April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 March 2017 requesting the following information:

'Could you please supply the following:

- 1. The current status of RFA Fort Austin*
- 2. The Out of Service Date of RFA Fort Austin*
- 3. When the mid-ships cranes were removed from RFA Fort Austin*
- 4. The purpose of the removal of the mid-ships cranes from RFA Fort Austin*
- 5. The date when RFA Fort Austin is next expected to return to operations'*

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 which is detailed in the attached Annex to this letter.

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

Q1. The current status of RFA Fort Austin

A1. RFA Fort Austin is currently not deployed and is alongside in the Liverpool area..

Q2. The Out of Service Date of RFA Fort Austin

A2. 2024.

Q3. When the mid-ships cranes were removed from RFA Fort Austin

A3. The mid-ships cranes were removed during platforms Survey and Essential Defects period from December 2015 to February 2016.

Q4. The purpose of the removal of the mid-ships cranes from RFA Fort Austin

A4. Removed for overhaul and upgrades in readiness for installation at Repair Period (RP) 17.

Q5. The date when RFA Fort Austin is next expected to return to operations

A5. This is currently under review.