



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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2017-08718

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4 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 September 2017 requesting the following information on:

'I am writing to request information with regards to the required number of weapon engineers specifically submariners which are required by the service compared to actual numbers currently in service to this date.'

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 holds the information within the scope of your request. However the information has been withheld as it is considered to fall within the exemption s26(Defence)

Section 26 is a qualified exemption, and as such we are required to conduct a public interest test weighing up the factors for and against disclosure.

Under s26(1)(a) and (b): Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice (a) the defence of the British Islands or of any colony or (b) the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces.

As this is a qualified exemption it has been necessary to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweigh the public interest in disclosure. We recognise that there is a widespread interest in our Armed Forces present and future capabilities. We therefore acknowledge that there would be a measure of public interest in releasing this information that you have requested. However, we believe the wider impact of releasing this information into the public domain could be used by Hostile Powers against the UK Armed Forces, prejudicing capability and effectiveness which would negatively impact upon Defence. We have therefore concluded that the public interest factors against the release of this information outweigh those in favour.

Under Section 16(Advice and Assistance) statistical information for 1 August 2017 can be found at the link below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643848/20170911 - FINAL - RN RM Monthly Situation Report rounded .pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643848/20170911_FINAL_-_RN_RM_Monthly_Situation_Report_rounded.pdf)

The number of Weapon Engineer (Submariner) Officers can be found in Table 2a, the equivalent statistic for Ratings is in Table 2b.

Please note that this information for 1 September 2017 will be available from 12 October 2017.

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