



Ministry  
of Defence

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

13 December 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2017 in which you requested the following information:

*I am writing this FIO request to get a summary of the past movements to and from the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands by the Royal Navy. I wish to know how frequently vessels travel, and how many per year typically make the journey from the UK mainland, or from any of our bases around the globe. Essentially the equivalent of the RAF's twice weekly air bridge via ascension. I do not wish to know about operations local to the islands.*

Clarified to the following date range:

*'I would like the information from 14/06/1982 - present day.'*

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in the accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds some of the information you have requested, from June 2006, information prior to that date is not held.

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. Some of the information you require from the operational records held from June 2006 to June 2016 are available at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/530751/Navy\\_FOI\\_2016\\_05129\\_Warships\\_Visiting\\_Falkland\\_Islands\\_from\\_2006\\_to\\_2016\\_Annex\\_A.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/530751/Navy_FOI_2016_05129_Warships_Visiting_Falkland_Islands_from_2006_to_2016_Annex_A.pdf)

Currently HMS Clyde patrols the territorial seas and monitors the airspace around the Falkland Islands while conducting routine visits and reassurance to the many small settlements found throughout the islands.

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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section