



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/07886

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[REDACTED]
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30 Aug 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 Aug 17 in which you requested the following information:

'The Royal Navy announced on Wed 9 Aug the purchase of up to 38 new workboats to carry out a variety of roles including support to QUEEN ELIZABETH and Type 26, officer training roles and ongoing hydrographic and EOD work.

I would like to make an FOI request to clarify the following points not covered in the press release:

- 1. What existing vessels are these new workboats replacing - please provide a list of all vessels by name/class and ideally current role.*
- 2. Please advise the original Fleet Non Operational Date (FNOD) for all vessels being replaced by the new workboat programme.*
- 3. Please confirm whether the Royal Navy will have more, fewer, or the same number of ancillary vessels in service carrying out these roles once the workboat replacement programme is complete and the older vessels have left service.'*

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 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). 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

Q1. What existing vessels are these new workboats replacing – please provide a list of all vessels by name/class and ideally current role?

A1. Royal Navy workboats generally have a number which is used to identify them for accounting purposes, some however, also have names. The table below lists the existing workboats, identified by number, name (if applicable) and current role. It should be noted that the roles of these multi-mission, modular workboats are not permanently set at construction. For example, a 15m Dive Support Boat can relatively quickly become a 15m Survey Boat, a 15m Officer Training Boat or a 15m Workboat. This provides the Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) the flexibility to surge capability depending on operational necessity.

Q2. Please advise the original Fleet Non Operational Date (FNOD) for all vessels being replaced by the new workboat programme?

A2. The original out of service dates for all vessels being replaced by the new workboats are shown on the table below.

Q3. Please confirm whether the Royal Navy will have more, fewer, or the same number of ancillary vessels in service carrying out these roles once the workboat replacement programme is complete and the older vessels have left service?

A3. The initial order includes an entirely new requirement for 3 Passenger Transit Boats as well as reductions of:

- 1 x Standard Workboat (11m);
- 1 x Dive Support Boat;
- 1 x Survey Motor Boat (Medium); and,
- 2 x Officer Training Boats.

Overall, the initial order of 33 workboats sees a reduction of 2 vessels.

The current contract also includes options to purchase an additional:

- 3 x Passenger Transit Boats;
- 2 x Officer Training Boats.

Should these options be taken this will bring the total number of workboats up to 38, an increase of 3 to the current complement of 35.

REPLACEMENT WORKBOAT (VAHANA) VARIANT	WORKBOATS TO BE REPLACED				ORIGINAL OUT OF SERVICE DATE	Numbers of Existing Workboats	Initial Workboat Order	Possible Future Option to Purchase
	Number	Name (If applicable)	Class	Current Role				
Standard Workboat (11m)	9895	-	11m Workboat	Training Unit	Mar-15	11	10	Not Applicable
	8841	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Jan-00			
	8842	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Jan-00			
	9894	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Jan-10			
	9896	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Jan-11			
	9897	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Jan-11			
	9920	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat*	Jan-12			
	00387	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Jan-16			
	00388	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Mar-18			
	00389	-	11m Workboat	RFA Workboat	Mar-18			
95124	Terra Nova	RTK Workboat	RFA Workboat	Mar-15				
Survey Motor Launch (18m)	H86	HMSML Gleaner	Gleaner	Survey Operations	Jan-03	1	1	NA
Passenger Transit Boat	Currently there are no dedicated passenger transit boats				Not Applicable	0	3	3
Dive Support Boat	8075	Diver	12m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Jan-91	8	7	Not Applicable
	8076	Dipper	12m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Jan-91			
	8078	Reclaim	12m Dive Boat	Diving Tender*	Jan-91			
	9040	Miner III	14.2m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Apr-10			
	9041	Datchett	14.2m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Apr-10			
	9701	Catlo	14.2m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Apr-17			
	9702	Damant	14.2m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Apr-17			
	9703	Burwood	14.2m Dive Boat	Diving Tender	Apr-17			
Officer Training Boat	7012	PB1	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-90	8	6	2
	7013	PB2	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-90			
	7227	PB3	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-92			
	7228	PB4	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-92			
	7229	PB5	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-92			
	7230	PB6	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-92			
	7633	PB7	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-96			
	7634	PB8	Picket Boat	Officer Training	Mar-96			
Survey Motor Boat (Medium)	9424	Cook	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Training	Mar-07	4	3	Not Applicable
	9425	Owen	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Training	Mar-07			
	9426	Pat Barton	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Training*	Mar-07			
	12032	Shackleton	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Operations	Mar-25			
Survey Motor Boat (Small)	11010	James Caird IV	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Operations	Mar-23	3	3	Not Applicable
	12030	Spittfire	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Operations	Mar-24			
	12031	Sapphire	Survey Motor Boat	Survey Operations	Mar-24			
						35	33	5

* Denotes Disposed of without Replacement