



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/03197

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[REDACTED]
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4 May 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 March 2017 requesting the following information:

'Could you please advise me of the rationale behind the decision to equip the new Queen Elizabeth class of aircraft carriers with the 20mm Phalanx Close In Weapons System (CIWS), manufactured by Raytheon, and not the 30mm Goalkeeper CIWS produced by Thales Naval?

Please also advise me as to which other CIWS systems were presented in the tendering process for the carriers.'

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

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The answers to your questions are as follows:

In response to the first part of your request, the only Royal Navy ships the Signaal (now Thales) Goalkeeper Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) has been in service with is the former HMS Invincible and HMS Illustrious aircraft carriers; HMS Ark Royal was fitted with the Raytheon Phalanx CIWS. The three ships of the Invincible Class have since been disposed of. The Goalkeeper CIWS had an out of service date of March 2017. All other Royal Navy ship platforms fitted with CIWS have since received the Phalanx, and the single-source procurement decision made in the case of the Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) aircraft carriers was to maintain that commonality of fit so as to minimise any additional costs of maintenance and support by having a single CIWS capability in-service across the RN fleet.

Regarding the second part of your request, consultation with Defence Equipment and Support has determined that no recorded information relating to a tendering process for procurement of CIWS for QEC is held, and this is to be expected since it reflects the decision made to go single-source for the Phalanx equipment fit.

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