



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
Navy Command Headquarters  
MP 1-4, Leach Building  
Whale Island  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO2 8BY

Ref: FOI2018/07703

E-mail: [navysec-foimailbox@mod.uk](mailto:navysec-foimailbox@mod.uk)

6 July 2018

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 June 2018 in which you requested the following information:

all papers emails, text messages and other documents generated in relation to the Economist's recent article "Rum, strategy and the cash" (2nd June 2018). This includes informal conversations to the extent they are captured by the Act.

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

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held, and this can be found at the attachment to this letter.

The documents have been redacted in accordance with section 40(2) - Personal Data - of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene data protection legislation.

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

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])

**Sent:** 22 May 2018 16:27

**To:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy) <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Call from the economist

The Economist: [REDACTED] – defence correspondent [REDACTED]@economist.com / [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

This very pleasant man called earlier after he couldn't get through on the main DDC Newsdesk number. He wants to do something about RN manpower difficulties/future capabilities and to re-engage The Economist in defence news after a few years' hiatus. He was a member of the DCA but it's lapsed and he wants to be involved in media days etc. He is writing 'something small' for this week's edition, and wants to build on that.

Please could you give him a call

[REDACTED]

Press Officer (Newsdesk)

RN Media, Communications and Engagement

Email: [REDACTED]

Mil: [REDACTED]

Civ: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
**Sent:** 24 May 2018 15:58  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-ASST HD COMMS) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

[REDACTED]

Shortly I'll be off until Tuesday – this is what I've sent DDC to work from. Hopefully it captures what you intended; I've asked that a developed draft is sent to you rather than including you in all the traffic.

The deadline isn't until Tuesday so there is a bit of time to refine:

- From every branch of the Naval Service there were nearly 9,000 men and women deployed at sea, abroad or in the UK at very high readiness for operations last week (w/c 21/05), with 16 ships of the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary deployed on operations around the world and eight in home waters in support of our national security, training or in trials.
- The Royal Navy continues to maintain a global presence which very few other navies have the capability of matching, such as the deployment of HMS Albion and Sutherland to the Far East in support of our allies and national interests in the region, patrols in the North and South Atlantic, and the announcement last week (24/05) of the enduring presence of a warship in the Gulf to reinforce our long-standing commitment to maritime security there.
- The UK is still at the forefront of naval endeavour, with our submarine HMS Trenchant recently exercising below the Arctic ice cap, HMS Queen Elizabeth soon to begin flying trials with the most advanced warplanes in the world, our fleet of minehunters maintaining safe lanes for the world's shipping, and our swift response to the destruction caused by hurricanes in the Caribbean last year demonstrating how the Royal Navy can bring power to bear when and where it is needed.

[REDACTED]  
Press Officer  
RN Media, Communications and Engagement  
T: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS)  
**Sent:** 24 May 2018 14:11  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy)  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

[REDACTED]

You have hopefully seen Capt [REDACTED] response. Can you please develop a more informative line back (working with all parties) so we can provide a fuller response. [REDACTED] mentions the sources that will emerge from today's conference and R4 transcript which will help too.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 May 2018, 11:42 am  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS) <[REDACTED]>;  
[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-HEAD) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
(DDC-Strategy-Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy)  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]).  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NAVY POL-ACNS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

When I took his call this writer was either new to defence or hadn't worked in it for a long time. Has he actually got proper claims from sources, or is he just basing some assertions on other journalists' work?

To reinforce Capt [REDACTED] suggestions on ops, there an announcement today from DES about the £188m Mk4 Merlin investment (with Min DP in Yeovilton looking at the first one), so along with the Sea Ceptor announcement, there's the chance to emphasise that the procurement programme is paying off and supporting UK manufacturing/hi-tech jobs.

[REDACTED]

Press Officer  
RN Media, Communications and Engagement  
T: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (DDC-Strategy-Navy)  
**Sent:** 24 May 2018 11:41  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS) <[REDACTED]>;  
[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News  
[REDACTED] Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NAVY POL-ACNS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

[REDACTED], All,

Largely agree and not somewhere the Economist has gone recently. We have other material now to draw on (SofS's Sir Henry Leach speech – 'as delivered' version should be posted later today (it's with [REDACTED] from the speechwriter) and 1SL on BBC R4 this morning <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0682hmd> esp on recapitalisation).

I think that the examples of operational activity the [REDACTED] mentions are all valid – AP is an excellent example – but worth reminding the journo we are bolstering our already significant enduring presence in the ME with a permanent GPFF, also RUMAN (APT(N)) and not least CASD.

[REDACTED]

Do you know if there is a transcript of this morning's interview in the offing – otherwise it might be worth going to BM (eek) and getting one commissioned (News have done that in the past)?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Captain, Royal Navy

[REDACTED] | DDC Strategy Navy  
Ministry of Defence  
[REDACTED] | Whitehall  
London | SW1A 2HB  
Civ: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

[MOD on GOV.UK](#)  
[MOD on Twitter](#)  
[Defence in the Media blog](#)

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS)  
**Sent:** 24 May 2018 11:22  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>); [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (DDC-Strategy-Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-  
NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy)  
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NAVY POL-ACNS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: Economist query

Sir, all

I'm not convinced the lines are as robust as we might wish. Clearly the funding issue and MDP require part of our lines to be as [REDACTED] describes below, but we have plenty of colour to add in terms of operational success, incorporating AP activity, SofS's announcement today, ICEX, NATO activity. The line rightly outlines the EP, but we need to emphasise the current commitment to operations in my view.

I note of course that this publication reaches a particular, and potentially helpful audience, and it's not one where we have seen such commentary of late (have we?).

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

**From:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 May 2018, 11:07 am  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO) <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy) <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] (FMC-CEPP-Maritime) <[REDACTED]>, Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER) <Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk>, Def Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) <DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk>, NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED] (MULTIUSER) <NAVYMEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>, [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

All,

Having spoken to the Economist reporter, the journalist has now revealed that his top line on the story will be based around the Royal Navy being "hollowed out" while trying to implement a "very ambitious" procurement programme. He will focus on claims the RN is underfunded, understaffed and have ships that are not ready to leave ports.

His deadline is now noon on Tuesday.

Suggest the following as a main line and we will issue the rest on background:

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said:

"Our Navy can already carry out all its operational requirements and, with two types of brand new frigates, two new classes of submarines and two huge aircraft carriers in the pipeline, the UK is fulfilling its global maritime role."

"We have also just launched the Modernising Defence Programme to ensure our Armed Forces have everything they need to defend the country from intensifying threats across the globe."

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
**Sent:** 23 May 2018 14:31  
**To:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO) <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy) <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] (FMC-CEPP-Maritime) <[REDACTED]>, Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER) <Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk>, Def Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) <DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk>, NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED] (MULTIUSER) <NAVYMEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>, [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS) <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** RE: Economist query

Hi all

On point ii) surely someone working for The Economist should be able to understand that the QEC funding comes out of the capital budget and the operational costs come out of the revenue, and demand on one should never affect the other. Unless I'm wrong about the budget arrangements, that line of enquiry could just be dismissed.

[REDACTED]  
Press Officer  
RN Media, Communications and Engagement  
T: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2018 13:42

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (FMC-CEPP-Maritime) <[REDACTED]>; Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER) <[Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

Altered slightly:

**From:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2018 12:01  
**To:** Def Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) <[DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (FMC-CEPP-Maritime) <[REDACTED]>; Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER) <[Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Economist query

Many thanks [REDACTED], that's perfect. So will start with this as background and get a bit more info off the journo:

- i) what the MoD is saying in response to the latest National Audit Office report saying that in addition to the £3 billion efficiency savings already promised, the defence budget will have to find another £2.9 billion over the next ten years to maintain the nuclear deterrent
- Not only is the nuclear deterrent our ultimate defence from the world's most extreme threats, but it is a true national endeavour which supports thousands of British jobs. The Dreadnought programme is one of the most complex engineering programmes ever undertaken by the UK and the NAO's report highlights our position that it is on track to be delivered on schedule and within the original estimated cost.
- We remain committed to developing the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, ensuring it is managed, advanced and delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.



- This report sets out the complex nature of the enterprise, and recognises the positive steps the Department has taken to deliver this technically challenging network of programmes.
  - We are committed to delivering large, complex and technologically challenging defence programmes as part of our £180bn plan to give our military the very best equipment. We are on track to meet our £16bn savings target.
- ii) whether the huge cost of the aircraft carriers is compromising the navy's ability to put its surface fleet of frigates and destroyers to sea on distant deployments
- Our Navy can already carry out all its operational requirements and, with two types of brand new frigates and two huge aircraft carriers in the pipeline, the UK is fulfilling its global maritime role.
  - We have just launched the Modernising Defence Programme to ensure our Armed Forces have everything they need to defend the country from intensifying threats across the globe.
- iii) whether, as has been reported, the navy will find it very difficult to deploy the manpower for a second aircraft carrier
- We have the people we need to man and operate HMS Queen Elizabeth and plans are advanced for manning HMS Prince of Wales.
  - Over 96% of Royal Navy posts are filled and we will continue to generate all the people required to man and operate the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers.
  - As well as confirming the intention to man and operate both QEC carriers, SDSR15 announced an increase in the size of the Royal Navy by 400 personnel. The additional manpower will help to ensure that our aircraft carriers can always operate effectively and safely.

**From:** Def Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER)

**Sent:** 23 May 2018 11:57

**To:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO) <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (FMC-CEPP-Maritime) <[REDACTED]>; Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER) <Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Economist query

[REDACTED]

Statistics on the strength and liability of the Armed Forces are published in the Tri Service Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics as linked below.

As at 1 April 2018 the Royal Navy/Royal Marines Full Time Trained Strength is 29,300 which is 96.2% of liability. There is a deficit of 3.8%.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-2018>

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Information & Analysis [REDACTED] | Defence Statistics (Navy) | Ministry of Defence | [REDACTED] | HMS Excellent | Whale Island | [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO)

**Sent:** 23 May 2018 11:38

**To:** [REDACTED] (FMC-CEPP-Maritime) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (Nuclear-Secretariat [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]> Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER) <[Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk)>; Def Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) <[DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] (Def Strat-Stat-Navy-HAnalyst-[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Economist query

Hi all,

The Economist are looking to do a story about the Royal Navy and its procurement programme e.g. exciting stuff going on but big programmes which are putting budget and manpower under a lot strain. We'll speak to them again to get more of a sense of the story, but we don't expect it to be overly long or detailed. They've asked the below, for which we have old lines. Are you still happy for me to feed this back on background before we pull a proper line together?:

- i) what the MoD is saying in response to the latest National Audit Office report saying that in addition to the £3 billion efficiency savings already promised, the defence budget will have to find another £2.9 billion over the next ten years to maintain the nuclear deterrent
  - Not only is the nuclear deterrent our ultimate defence from the world's most extreme threats, but it is a true national endeavour which supports thousands of British jobs. The Dreadnought programme is one of the most complex engineering programmes ever undertaken by the UK and the NAO's report highlights our position that it is on track to be delivered on schedule and within the original estimated cost.
  - We remain committed to developing the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, ensuring it is managed, advanced and delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.
  - This report sets out the complex nature of the enterprise, and recognises the positive steps the Department has taken to deliver this technically challenging network of programmes.
  - We are committed to delivering large, complex and technologically challenging defence programmes as part of our £180bn plan to give our military the very best equipment. We are on track to meet our £16bn savings target. < DG-Nuc – all very recently cleared so have no concerns here. Just including you guys for awareness.
- ii) whether the huge cost of the aircraft carriers is compromising the navy's ability to put its surface fleet of frigates and destroyers to sea on distant deployments
  - Our Navy can already carry out all its operational requirements and, with two types of brand new frigates and two huge aircraft carriers in the pipeline, the UK is fulfilling its global maritime role.
  - We have just launched the Modernising Defence Programme to ensure our Armed Forces have everything they need to defend the country from intensifying threats across the globe.

- iii) whether, as has been reported, the navy will find it very difficult to deploy the manpower for a second aircraft carrier
- We have the people we need to man and operate HMS Queen Elizabeth and plans are advanced for manning HMS Prince of Wales.
  - The Royal Navy remains on track to achieve its manning levels for 2020. We will continue to generate all the people required to man and operate the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers.
  - [REDACTED]/Navy-Stats – Are you able to please give me the stat which says the Navy is 9X% staffed With a deficit of X.
  - As well as confirming the intention to man and operate both QEC carriers, SDSR15 announced an increase in the size of the Royal Navy by 400 personnel. The [REDACTED] effectively and safely.

Thanks,

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

[MOD on GOV.UK](#)  
[MOD on Twitter](#)  
[Defence in the Media blog](#)

**From:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])

**Sent:** 24 May 2018 15:59

**To:** [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy) <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS 1D) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; NAVY MEDIACOMMS-

NEWSDESK [REDACTED] (MULTIUSER) <NAVYMEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Economist response

[REDACTED]

Further to Capt [REDACTED] email here's something I've pulled together on the naval activity he wishes to highlight. My concern is that either most of what we send is going to be ignored, or The Economist will use it to boost the size and prominence of the negative prose their writer submits.

[REDACTED] in CSAV just called a few moments ago and suggested NAVSEC is involved in the response (based on the enquiry being about manpower/resources). I explained to him I don't think there is any need to go down that route, but if you choose to have a view taken on the response that will be a better avenue than CSAV.

Nothing contained below needs checking with Pol Sec for factual accuracy, but they might have an opinion on the tone when it's finalised.

I'm not back until Tuesday, the team are copied in, in case they need to assist but hopefully DDC will be able to take it from here. I won't trouble Capt [REDACTED] with the pinging round of drafts, but please send him a developed draft. I've shown him the below:

- From every branch of the Naval Service there were nearly 9,000 men and women deployed at sea, abroad or in the UK at very high readiness for operations last week (w/c 21/05), with 16 ships of the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary deployed on operations around the world and eight in home waters in support of our national security, training or in trials.
- The Royal Navy continues to maintain a global presence which very few other navies have the capability of matching, such as the deployment of HMS Albion and Sutherland to the Far East in support of our allies and national interests in the region, patrols in the North and South Atlantic, and the announcement last week (24/05) of the enduring presence of a warship in the Gulf to reinforce our long-standing commitment to maritime security there.
- The UK is still at the forefront of naval endeavour, with our submarine HMS Trenchant recently exercising below the Arctic ice cap, HMS Queen Elizabeth soon to begin flying trials with the most advanced warplanes in the world, our fleet of minehunters maintaining safe lanes for the world's shipping, and our swift response to the destruction caused by hurricanes in the Caribbean last year demonstrating how the Royal Navy can bring power to bear when and where it is needed.

[REDACTED]  
Press Officer (Newsdesk)  
RN Media, Communications and Engagement  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Mil: [REDACTED]  
Civ: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (NAVY SEC- [REDACTED] SECRETARIAT)

Sent: 25 May 2018 13:40

To: [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-ASST HD COMMS) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
(NAVY MEDIACOMMS- [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-Strategy-  
Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy)  
<[REDACTED]>; NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED] (MULTIUSER)  
<NAVYMEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED]@mod.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY SEC-  
POLSEC [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Economist query

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for sight of this, [REDACTED] and I have looked at this together and offer a few suggestions below ...

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Navy Command HQ  
Policy Secretariat

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Whale Island, [REDACTED]  
Please note my new extension number of [REDACTED]

Please send all official mail to our group mailbox: NAVY SEC- PQS MAILBOX (MULTIUSER)

PolSec Duty Phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED])

Sent: 25 May 2018 12:51

To: [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]); [REDACTED] (NAVY  
MEDIACOMMS- [REDACTED] COMMS); [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS- [REDACTED]);  
[REDACTED] (DDC-Strategy-Navy); [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED]);  
(DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy); [REDACTED] (NAVY SEC- [REDACTED] OF SECRETARIAT); [REDACTED]  
(NAVY SEC-1 POLSEC [REDACTED]); NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK [REDACTED] (MULTIUSER)

Cc: [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO); [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])

Subject: RE: Economist query

[REDACTED]  
Having received your feedback and several lines from [REDACTED], we suggest the following.  
Could you let me know if you are content by 1430 as we are keen to get them cleared today.

**A Royal Navy spokesman said:**

**"The Royal Navy maintains a truly global presence for Great Britain, from both the Arctic ice caps to the South Atlantic to the Far East, the Gulf and Caribbean, as well as our NATO role in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean.**

**"We are in the middle of an equipment regeneration programme with our aircraft carrier, frigate and submarine programmes, and the Modernising Defence Programme, all ensuring our Armed Forces have everything they need to defend the country from intensifying threats across the globe."**

Further lines:

- We are committed to delivering large, complex and technologically challenging defence programmes as part of our £180bn plan to give our military the very best equipment and training. Think the EP figure used is actually £179Bn and wouldn't want to suggest a 1Bn increase
- Not only is the nuclear deterrent our ultimate defence from the world's most extreme threats, but it is a true national endeavour which supports thousands of British jobs. The Dreadnought programme is one of the most complex engineering programmes ever undertaken by the UK and the NAO's report highlights our position that it is on track to be delivered on schedule and within the original estimated cost. The report sets out the complex nature of the enterprise, and recognises the positive steps the Department has taken to deliver this technically challenging network of programmes.
- More than 96% of Royal Navy posts are filled and we will continue to generate all the people required to man and operate the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers; and plans are already advancing for manning HMS Prince of Wales.

Best,

From: [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS [REDACTED])

Sent: 24 May 2018 14:39

To: [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] COMMS) <[REDACTED]>;  
[REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>;  
(DDC-Strategy-Navy) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-  
NEWS [REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-News [REDACTED] Navy)  
<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DDC-PR-NewsEquip [REDACTED])  
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Economist query

Will do

Press Officer

RN Media, Communications and Engagement

T: [REDACTED]