

Ref: FOI2018/07703

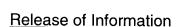
Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
MP 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTS MOUTH
PO2 8BY

E-mail:

navysec-foimailbox@mod.uk



6 July 2018



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 extend 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). 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 5Af². 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:	(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEW)	S ()
Sent: 22 May 20	18 16:27	
To:	(DDC-PR-News Navy) <	>
Subject: Call from	n the economist	
The Economist:	– defence correspondent	@economist.com /
Hi Tab		

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 reengage 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

Press Officer (Newsdesk)

RN Media, Communications and Engagement

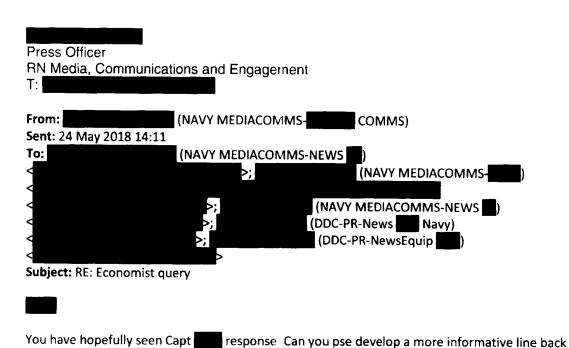
Email: Mil: Civ:

From:	(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS	
Sent: 24 May 20	018 15:58	
To:	(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-ASST HD COMMS) <	>
Subject: RE: Eco	nomist query	

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 nava 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.



(working with all parties) so we can provide a fuller response. mentions the sources that will

emerge from today's conference and R4 transcript which will help too.

Thanks Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com) From: (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS) <S Date: Thursday, 24 May 2018, 11:42 am (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-COMMS) < (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-HEAD) < (DDC-Strategy-Navy) < (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS (DDC-PR-News Navy) (DDC-PR-NewsEquip (NAVY POL-ACNS 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 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. **Press Officer** RN Media, Communications and Engagement From: (DDC-Strategy-Navy) Sent: 24 May 2018 11:41 (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-COMMS) < (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS (DDC-PR-News Navy) < (DDC-PR-NewsEquip

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 from the speechwriter) and 1SL on BBC R4 this morning https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0682hmd esp on recapitalisation).

(NAVY POL-ACNS) <

Subject: RE: Economist query

, All,

(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS)

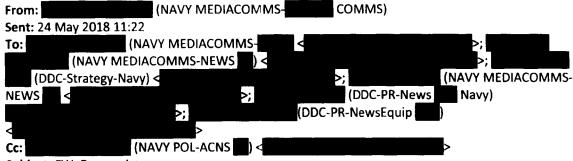
I think that the examples of operational activity the mentions are all valid – AP is an excellent example – but worth reminding the journo we are bolstering our already significant enduring presence in the ME with a permanent GPFF, also RUMAN (APT(N)) and not least CASD.

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,

Captain, Royal Navy





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 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:	(DDC-PR-NewsEquip) <	>
Date: Thursda	ay, 24 May 2018, 11:07 am	
To:	(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEW	VS () <
:	(DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO) <	>
Cc:	(DDC-PR-News Navy) <	>,
(FMC-CEPP-N	faritime) <	>, Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER)
< <u>Nuclear-Sec</u>	retariatTeam@mod.gov.uk>, Def Strat-Sta	at-Navy (MULTIUSER) < DefStrat-Stat-
Navy@mod.g	ov.uk>, NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWSDESK	(MULTIUSER) < NAVYMEDIACOMMS-
NEWSDESK	@mod.gov.uk>, (NA\	VY MEDIACOMMS- COMMS)
<	>	
Subject: RE: E	conomist 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,

From:	(NAVY MED	IACOMMS-NEWS (
Sent: 23 May 2	018 14:31	_	
To:	(DDC-PR-NewsEqui	pSCO) <	>
Cc:	(DDC-PR-News N	avy) <	>;
(DDC-PR-Newsl	Equip () <	>;	(FMC-CEPP-
Maritime) <		>; Nuclear-Secretariat	Team (MULTIUSER) < Nuclear-
<u>SecretariatTear</u>	<u>n@mod.gov.uk</u> >; Def Strat	-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) <	DefStrat-Stat-
Navy@mod.gov	v.uk>; NAVY MEDIACOMM	S-NEWSDESK 📕 (MULTIUSI	ER) < <u>NAVYMEDIACOMMS</u> -
NEWSDESK @)mod.gov.uk>;	(NAVY MEDIACOM	IMS-COMMS)
<	>		

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.

Press Officer RN Media Communications and Engagement
RN Media, Communications and Engagement T:
From: (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO) Sent: 23 May 2018 13:42
Cc: (DDC-PR-News Navy) <
(DDC-PR-NewsEquip) < (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS) < ; (FMC-
CEPP-Maritime) < >; Nuclear-Secretariat Team (MULTIUSER)
< <u>Nuclear-SecretariatTeam@mod.gov.uk</u> >
Subject: RE: Economist query
Altered slightly:
From: (DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO)
Sent: 23 May 2018 12:01
To: Def Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) < DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk >
Cc: (DDC-PR-News Navy) <
(DDC-PR-NewsEquip) < (NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS) < (FMC-
MEDIACOMMS-NEWS) <
<pre><nuclear-secretariatteam@mod.gov.uk></nuclear-secretariatteam@mod.gov.uk></pre>
Subject: RE: Economist query

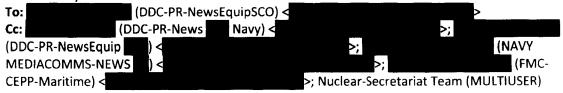
Many thanks that's perfect. So will start with this as background and get a bit more info off the journo:

- 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



< Nuclear-Secretariat Team@mod.gov.uk >

Subject: RE: Economist query

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,

Information	& Analysis	Defence Statistics (Navy) Ministry	of
Defence	HMS Excellent Whale		
From: (DDC-	PR-NewsEquipSCO)		
Sent: 23 May 2018 11:38			
To: (FMC-	-CEPP-Maritime) <	>;	
(Nuclear-Secretariat) <	Nuclear-Secretariat Te	am
(MULTIUSER) < Nuclear-Secretar	iatTeam@mod.gov.uk>; D	oef Strat-Stat-Navy (MULTIUSER) < D	efStrat-
Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk>;	(Def Strat-S	Stat-Navy-HAnalyst-	
4	>	<u> </u>	
Cc: (DDC-PR-Ne	ews Navy) <	>;	
(DDC-PR-NewsEquip) <		>; (NAVY	
MEDIACOMMS-NEWS) <		>	
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.

- 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.
- /Navy-Stats Are you able to please give ne 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 effectively and safely.

Thanks,

MOD on GOV.UK MOD on Twitter Defence in the Media blog

From:	(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS	5 🔛)	
Sent: 24 May 201	8 15:59		
To:	(DDC-PR-NewsEquip) <		>;
(DDC-PR-New	vs Navy) <	>	
Cc:	(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS 1D) <		>;
(NAVY MEDIA	COMMS-NEWS <		>; NAVY MEDIACOMMS-
NEWSDESK (M	ULTIUSER) < NAVYMEDIACOMMS-NEWSD	ESK (@mod.gov.uk>;
(NAVY MEDIA	COMMS-NEWS () <		>
Subject: Economi	st response		
Further to Capt	email here's something I've pulled to	ogethe	on the naval activity he wishes to
highlight. My con	cern is that either most of what we send i	is <mark>goin</mark> g	to be ignored, or The Economist
will use it to boos	t the size and prominence of the negative	e prose	their writer submits.

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 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.

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

From:(N Sent: 25 May 2018 13:4		RETARIAT)	
	DDC-PR-NewsEquip) <	>;
	IACOMMS-NEWS <		. /
•	MS-ASST HD COMMS)		>;
(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-) <	>;	(DDC-Strategy-
Navy) <	>;	(NAVY MEDIAC	
₹	>;	(DDC-PR-News Na	
<	>; NAVY MEDIAC	OMMS-NEWSDESK (ML	JLTIUSER)
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	DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCO		>;
(NAVY MEDIACOMMS-N	IEWS () <	>;	(NAVY SEC-
POLSEC () <	>		
Subject: RE: Economist	query		
Thank you for sight of the	nis. and I have loo	oked at this together and o	ffer a few suggestions
below	and mave too	med at tino together and t	Her a rest pubblishing
Regards			
negaras			
Navy Command HQ			
Policy Secretariat	_		
	_		
			•
	hale Island,		•
Please note my new exter	nsion number of		
Dlasca cand all official ma	ail to our group mailboy: I	NAVY SEC- PQS MAILBOX (M	III TIIISER)
ricase sella ali official fila	in to our group manbox.	THE TOLE TO MALLOON (M	oenosen,
PolSec Duty Phone:			
From:	(DDC-PR-NewsEquip		
Sent: 25 May 2018 12:5			
To:	(NAVY MEDIACOM	MS-NEWS ;	(NAVY_
MEDIACOMMS-	COMMS);	(NAVY MEDIACOM	MS-);
(DDC-Strategy-Nav	vy) ; (N	AVY MEDIACOMMS-NEWS	S ();
		VY SEC-OF SECRETA	RIAT);
		NS-NEWSDESK (MULTIU	
	DDC-PR-NewsEquipSCC		MEDIACOMMS-NEWS (
Subject: RE: Economist	query		
	•		
Having received your fe	eedback and several line	es from	, we suggest the following.
		430 as we are keen to get	them cleared today.
A Royal Navy	y spokesman said:		
			Great Britain, from both
		Atlantic to the Far Eas	
			ic and Mediterranean.
		oment regeneration pro	
		arine programmes, and	
			ive everything they need
to defend the	country from inten	sifying threats across	rne grobe."

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.

