



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Policy Secretariat – Ships

DESSEC-PolSecShipsandSubs@mod.uk

Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0a #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH

[REDACTED]

25 July 2019 Our Reference: FOI2019/07423

[REDACTED]

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2019, in which you requested the following information about Maintenance work undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) or its contractors at Gibraltar:

Is resupply/maintenance in the Gibraltar dockyard on British/Allied ships, including nuclear submarines, carried out by British military personnel, or by Private Companies? And if the former is true, how many British personnel are based at the Dockyard for this purpose? And if the latter is true, which companies carry out this work?

I can advise that we have been treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and can confirm that the MOD holds some information that falls within the scope of your request.

In answer to the first part of your question, I can confirm work on the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary's warships and support vessels is undertaken in the Gibraltar dockyard by a range of personnel and this will depend very much upon the specific tasks to be undertaken. Light engineering repairs are routinely undertaken by members of the ships company, but on occasions this is supported by the Infrastructure Service Provider in Gibraltar, Interserve. The re-supply of routine commodities is most often delivered by local providers in Gibraltar. Standard maintenance work on electrics, steelwork and painting is undertaken by the local workforce. For maintenance work that is of a more specialist or sensitive nature, the MOD or original equipment manufacturers would provide the specialist engineering assistance from the UK or undertake this work themselves after being contracted by the shipping agent. The shipping agent for the RN is MOD UK (MLS).

To address the second part of your question. The MOD does not have specific personnel permanently based in the Naval Base at Gibraltar, and where commercial companies, other than our Infrastructure Service Provider, are used they are usually sub-contracted by Interserve.

Under Section 16 (providing Help and Assistance) - I can confirm the shipping agent is the designated agency, which is responsible for providing port, maritime and other logistical support services at ports and harbours throughout the world.

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.gov.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

DE&S Secretariat (ships)