



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2020/02647

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

13 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 February 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Ministry of Defence:

Has the Ministry of Defence held any consultation on replacing the RFA Argus?  
How does the Ministry of Defence plan to maintain the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship role post 2024?  
What year does the Royal Fleet Auxillary plan to retire the RFA Argus from service?

Has the Royal Navy held consultation on restarting the procurement of Fleet Solid Support Ships?  
Does the the Ministry of Defence see the construction of new Fleet Solid Support Ships as a priority?'

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

I can confirm that a search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and information in scope of your request is held and is readily available in the public domain. The MOD is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As the information you have requested is already available to the public, we have assessed your request falls under the absolute exemption at section 21 – information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means – of the FOI Act. Consequently, we are not obliged to provide you with this information.

You can access the information in respect of parts one, two and three of your request about RFA Argus via the UK Parliament website at the following links:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-05/HL2304/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-05/HL2305/>

Information in respect of parts four and five of your request about the procurement of the Fleet Solid Support Ships can be accessed via the following UK Parliament website:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-03/HL2182/>

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