UK Hydrographic Office

Admiralty Way
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2DN

Telephone: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
E-mail: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Website: www.gov.uk/ukho

▮▮▮▮▮▮

REF: FOI2020/04246   22 April 2020

Dear ▮▮▮▮▮

Thank you for your email of 24th March 2020 requesting the following information:

"1. In the last 24 months have you attempted to implement any of the following technologies? If so, which ones?
- Automation - such as RPA, machine learning, chatbots
- Wearables
- VR
- AR
- Drones
- Tablets
- Apps

2. In the last 24 months, have you been able to decommission any legacy systems as a result of the successful implementation of new technologies?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the UKHO, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below, at annex A.

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, 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,

UKHO Secretariat

Annex A

1. In the last 24 months have you attempted to implement any of the following technologies? If so, which ones?
- Automation - such as RPA, machine learning, chatbots
- Wearables
- VR
- AR
- Drones
- Tablets
- Apps

UKHO response:
We are at various stages with some of these technologies:
- Machine Learning – we use machine learning for automating previously manual tasks
- RPA – we are investigating the potential use of RPA technologies
- Chatbots – we are investigating the potential use of chatbots

2. In the last 24 months, have you been able to decommission any legacy systems as a result of the successful implementation of new technologies?

UKHO response:
Yes – we have undertaken significant legacy decommissioning activities, largely focussed on upgrading components to newer versions.