



UK Hydrographic Office

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[REDACTED]
REF: FOI2020/09029

12 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2020 requesting the following information:

Further to our earlier mail I would refer again to the specific query we raised, quote:

“When your cartographers send an indent to printers, publishers and wherever else such maps are produced digitally or otherwise, the source contents will have been precisely verified first. Our query is in relation to boundary lines your department have printed on your international maritime maps. From what source, where and by whom are said boundaries either generated or carried forward?”

We fully respect the official comment sent us, quote: *“UKHO provides technical law of the sea, we do not provide legal advice nor opinion on sovereignty and claims. UKHO is not the UK’s lead on legal sovereignty claim”.*

The indent to producers of your maritime maps must be created or generated from source material – so our question remains what source, where and by whom are said boundaries either generated or carried forward?

It would appear to be reasonable for us to request this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below:

UKHO charts international maritime boundaries for UK, overseas territories and crown dependencies as geographical illustrations of ratified international treaties. Where maritime boundaries are shown for other States, the maritime boundary is adopted from the coastal State, having been checked for agreement with neighbours geographical interpretation and published ratified international treaties.

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