



Defence Business Services
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Ref: FOI2020/13985

20 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“am aware that following the independent review by Sir John Holmes in 2012 that the qualifying period for the South Atlantic Medal was extended from the 12th July 1982 to 21st October 1982.

Following this extension I am aware that the crews of certain naval vessels became eligible for the South Atlantic Medal without rosette - could you confirm whether HMS Newcastle was amongst those vessels that now qualified.”

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

I can confirm that HMS Newcastle was a qualifying vessel for the extended time period for the South Atlantic Medal, but only for the period 21 September 1982 to 21 October 1982 inclusive. Time served onboard either side of those dates does not count. Additionally, if personnel did not fulfil the full 30-day qualifying period onboard during that extended time, they would not qualify.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, following the independent review, should an individual wish to check their eligibility to the South Atlantic Medal they should complete the application form, which can be found at the link below, and submit it directly to the Ministry of Defence Medal Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals>

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

Defence Business Services Secretariat