



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support  
Secretariat  
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Ministry of Defence  
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Our Reference:  
FOI2021/10614  
Date: 12 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 September 2021 requesting the following information:

*"I seek answers to the following questions:*

- a. Has DESA had HMS Ariadne's ship's bell in its possession at any time since HMS Ariadne (F72) paid off in 1992?*
- b. If it had the bell and no longer does, how was the bell disposed of?*
- c. If it was sold was this by public auction?*
- d. If not by public auction how was the sale arranged?"*

I have treated 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 Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that the Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA) have confirmed that they have never had HMS Ariadne's ship's bell in their possession. Furthermore, after an extensive search of their records, they have also confirmed that they do not hold any recorded information relating to this bell so are unable to comment further. I am aware that you have also contacted the Royal Navy about the bell, and I can only confirm that DESA's findings match what the Royal Navy advised you in their response dated 17 September 2021, reference FOI2021/10243. Regrettably, no recorded information is held by the MOD to determine how the ship's bell from HMS Ariadne was disposed of.

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](mailto: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

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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**