



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2021/15662

RFI: 378/21

Date: 21 Januray 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE:
PHOTOGRAPHING VESSELS.**

We refer to your email dated 23rd December 2021 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 11th January 2022.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

I have a query and not sure if you are able to answer it or not..

I am a freelance photographer with a particular interest in Warships and Submarines.

I have photographed these vessels on the water on public land all over the UK and I publish them on various social media on a regular basis.

I have been told by an ex submariner that what I am doing that he is sending the MoD Police to my door to get me charged.

As I am on public land (NOT MoD property) and the vessel is not tied up and in a public place I believe I am perfectly entitled to do this without fear of being charged or arrested.

I have been doing this for well over 30 years, yes the MoD police have stopped me and asked what I am doing - (some have even said hang on for a bit there is another ship moving soon) when I explain I am photographing and sharing on social media they have said there is not a problem.

Please can you clarify this in writing that it is perfectly legal for me to do so.

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

I have a query and not sure if you are able to answer it or not..

I am a freelance photographer with a particular interest in Warships and Submarines.

I have photographed these vessels on the water on public land all over the UK and I publish them on various social media on a regular basis.

I have been told by an ex submariner that what I am doing that he is sending the MoD Police to my door to get me charged.

As I am on public land (NOT MoD property) and the vessel is not tied up and in a public place I believe I am perfectly entitled to do this without fear of being charged or arrested.

I have been doing this for well over 30 years, yes the MoD police have stopped me and asked what I am doing - (some have even said hang on for a bit there is another ship moving soon) when I explain I am photographing and sharing on social media they have said there is not a problem.

Please can you clarify this in writing that it is perfectly legal for me to do so.

The law, as it stands, does not prevent someone from taking any pictures/video from public land of anything provided there is no expectation of privacy, such as taking pictures of the inside of a person's home or garden which is likely to cause a breach of privacy laws. If the pictures are being taken on/from private land then there is a requirement for the landowner's permission to be given.

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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office

