



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
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Ministry of Defence
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Email: DES-SEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk

Our Reference:
FOI2022/04311
Date:
29 April 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 31 March 2022 requesting the following information:

“Can you please provide all information pertaining to the sale of the following MOD assets:

*HMS Ark Royal
HMS Liverpool
HMS Manchester
HMS Plymouth
HMS Edinburgh
HMS York
HMS Gloucester
RFA Orangeleaf
HMS Illustrious
RFA Black Rover
RFA Gold Rover
HMS Plymouth*

The information I am particularly looking for is the tender technical information and commercial acceptance.”

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 Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide an estimate of how long this work would take but it would exceed the £600 limit by a considerable amount.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine it. For example, you may wish to refine your request by reducing the number of vessels that you have a particular interest in, or you may wish to limit it to the specific documentation that you also referred to in your letter. However, please note that even after refinement, there is no guarantee that the MOD holds such information, that it brings it under the cost threshold, or that another FOI Act provision might not come into play.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act I can advise that some information requested pertaining to the sale of the above assets, except for HMS Plymouth, is already in the public domain and can be found here on the Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA) link: [DESA ship recycling reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-equipment-sales-authority-ship-recycling-reports)

However, due to the passage of time that has elapsed since HMS Plymouth was decommissioned in 1988, the DESA has confirmed that details of the sale of this vessel is no longer held.

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

DE&S Secretariat