



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
3 Deck, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY

FOI2022/13813

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

7 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 November 2022, in which you requested the following information:

'UIN 87865

answered a question from thus:

'HMS PRINCE OF WALES was assisted by the escort tug Njord Viking on her journey to Rosyth at a cost of £246,000. There were no other additional costs involved in the move.'

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquestions-statements.parliament.uk%2Fwritten-questions%2Fdetail%2F2022-11-15%2F87865&data=05%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C8aa98b7e689d45f6e7fb08dacc117b58%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C638046672697102784%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eXCZgPwsnYcCLgp6pavq2yWw0EGNS0J5%2FzD%2F9AzWpql%3D&reserved=0>

1. If any other tugs were considered for the job, what were the lowest and highest bids?
2. For how many miles was the HMS Prince of Wales assisted by the Njord Viking?

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In response to part one of your request, I can advise that the commercial market was approached via our broker and a range of offers were received. The lowest bid was £134,000 and the highest was £204,000. Please be advised that these figures are excluding fuel and for a fixed charter period with options to extend at additional cost. The actual total cost of £246,000 was inclusive of fuel and additional days of charter.

In response to part two of your request, I can advise that the passage undertaken by the vessel Njord Viking to support the HMS PRINCE OF WALES to Rosyth was approximately 500 nautical miles.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, it may be helpful if I explain that the cost for the Njord Viking was for her supporting the HMS PRINCE OF WALES from her departure in Portsmouth to her arrival in Rosyth. The vessel provided cover by being in the vicinity of the carrier; this was not a close escort but staying within a few miles of the ship, so support was readily to hand if needed.

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.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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section