



Ministry
of Defence



FOI2021/01031

E-mail: NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

12 March 2021

Dear [Redacted],

Release of Information

Further to our letter dated 24 February 2021, I am now in a position to respond to your request for the following information:

'I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Royal Navy. Please may you provide me with:

A breakdown of the a) the number of EU vessels stopped by the Royal Navy, b) the number of EU vessels deterred by the Royal Navy c) other operational events and taskings associated with the deployment the River Class offshore patrol boats (Operational Patrol Vessels) for the purposes of ensuring that fishing boats from EU member states did not enter the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone at the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU. This should cover the period from 30.12.2020 until 27.01.2021 (when ships mobilised, to the operation being wound down).'

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

As explained in our interim response, a search was completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and it was confirmed that information in scope of your request was held. However, in that same correspondence, we also informed you some of the information requested may be exempt under Section 27 (International Relations) of the FOI Act. After further consideration of the information in scope of your request, it has been determined that the exemption does not apply on this occasion

Therefore, in response to part A of your request, I can advise that between 30 December 2020 and 27 January 2021, the Royal Navy (RN) intercepted three EU fishing vessels.

In response to part B of your request, the MOD and RN hold no recorded information demonstrating its deterrent effect on illegal fishing within the UK European Economic Zone.

In response to part C of your request, I can advise you that between 30 December 2020 and 27 January 2021, the RN received no additional taskings through Military Aid to the Civil Authorities.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, you may find it useful to know that the RN does not maintain vessels exclusively employed for fishery protection activities. Fishery Protection policy and enforcement is managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The MOD has an agreement to provide a dedicated number of enforcement days with the Marine Management Organisation, an agency of DEFRA responsible for Marine Enforcement in English territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

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