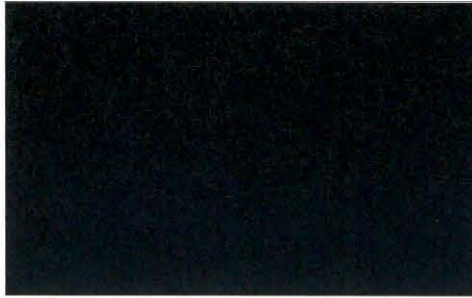




Ministry
of Defence



FOI2021/03984

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



4 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 April 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'I would like to know about the Department of Naval Security, part of the Admiralty Naval Staff, which was set up by First Lord of the Admiralty Lord Carrington in 1961 following recommendations of the 1961 Romer Report . Please can you answer the following questions about the Department of Naval Security:

1. What can you tell me about Department of Naval Security history?
2. What were the Department of Naval Security's main responsibilities and duties? Was it an overarching authority on Naval security policy or does it have an investigative remit? If so, did it investigate Naval security breaches only or did it investigate anything to do with the Royal Navy, including criminal matters such as fraud? Did it investigate civilians accused of breaching Navy security?
3. Where was the Department of Naval Security located?
4. How many staff within the Department of Naval Security were Naval personnel and how many were serving civil servants or civilian employees? Do you know the same statistics for the department in 1972?

5. Would the Department of Naval Security approach the BBC direct if there was a suspected security leak of Navy secrets on a BBC TV show? Or would the Department of Naval Security normally pass such enquiries to the police or civilian agency?

6. Why was the Department of Naval Security renamed the Directorate of Naval Security (DNSy) in 1973 and brought under the Navy Department? Was this due to another parliamentary committee report, perhaps because of the Sub Lt David Bingham spy case?

7. Is there anywhere else you advise that I should go to regarding UNCLASSIFIED information on the Department of Naval Security e.g. books, journals, government publications?'

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

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

From the records held within the MOD, a biography on Colonel John Leeper Anketell Macafee Royal Marine, shows that he was appointed as Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence (Security) in January 1961, but in August 1961 he was selected as the first Director of the Security Department of the Admiralty.

The Navy List for Autumn 1962 (two years before the creation of the MOD) shows Macafee as the Director DNSY of the Naval Security Department. While the Naval Intelligence Division was a Division of the Naval Staff, the Naval Security Department seems to come under the Department of Dockyard and Maintenance but may well have functioned as a stand-alone department. This evidence would suggest that the Directorate of Naval Security and the Naval Security Department are either the same organisation, or coincidentally had the same Director at the same time. As such, the MOD does not hold any other information in relation to the 'Department' of Naval Security to answer your request in full.

Under section 16 (Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, information on the creation of the 'Directorate' of Naval Security (DNSy) is held at The National Archive (TNA) and can be found at the following link:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C4849067>

In addition, TNA also has a copy of the 1967 edition of the Manual of Naval Security, which may provide more detail on the Directorate and its interaction with the Defence Intelligence Services (into which the Naval Intelligence Division had been amalgamated. Further details can be found at the following link:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C2097042>

A copy of the Romer Enquiry report is also held at the TNA which may be of use to you. Further details can be found at the following link:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16481374>.

You may also find it useful to know that TNA holds copies of Navy Lists which will include information concerning the principle officers employed by the DNSy. As a Directorate created in 1961, DNSy would have been an Admiralty Directorate at the time of its creation but would have come under MOD Navy by the end of 1964 following the creation of the MOD. Please be advised that should you choose to view the Navy Lists at TNA by 1972, the Navy List had ceased to list Divisions, Directorates and Departments.

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

