



Ministry  
of Defence



FOI2021/04792

E-mail: [NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk)



25 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 May 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'Can you please provide me with the following information.

Between 8 June 2020 and 19 March 2021 how many Royal Fleet Auxiliary seagoing personnel returned to the UK:

- A. From ships deployed overseas to return to their home address.
- B. From home addresses overseas to join ships in the UK.
- C. How many people in paragraph A were instructed by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary to undertake self isolation in accordance with the The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.
- D. How many people in paragraph B were instructed by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary to undertake self isolation in accordance with the The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.
- E. If applicable why were those detailed in paragraph A not instructed to self isolate.
- F. If applicable why were those detailed in paragraph B not to instructed to self isolate.'

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 been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Information to answer all parts of your request can be found at Annex A to this letter. Please be advised that in accordance with Section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOI Act, to ensure there is no inadvertent

identification of individuals, figures under five are represented by '~' or referred to in the text as 'less than five'.

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-HR@MOD.GOV.UK](mailto:CIO-FOI-HR@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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

**ANNEX A  
to FOI2021/04792  
dated 25 May 2021**

**RFA PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT AND SELF ISOLATION DIRECTION (Between 8 June 2020 and 19 March 2021 Number of Royal Fleet Auxiliary Seagoing Personnel Returned to the UK).**

	Wave Knight	Tidespring	Tiderace	Tidesurge	Tideforce	Fort Victoria	Argus	Mounts Bay	Lyme Bay	Cardigan Bay
A	NA	NA	16	In Refit	NA	NA	In Refit	NA	18	236
B	NA	~	5	NA	~	NA	NA	NA	18	NA
C	NA	NA	Nil	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	7 See note
D	NA	~	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	NA	NA	18	NA
E	NA	NA	See Note	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	See Note
F	NA	NA	See Note	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Figures fewer than 5 are represented by '~' in line with disclosure control policy.

- A. From ships deployed overseas to return to their home address.
- B. From home addresses overseas to join ships in the UK.
- C. How many people in paragraph A were instructed by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary to undertake self-isolation in accordance with the The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.
- D. How many people in paragraph B were instructed by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary to undertake self-isolation in accordance with the The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) Regulations 2020.
- E. If applicable why were those detailed in paragraph A not instructed to self-isolate.
- F. If applicable why were those detailed in paragraph B not instructed to self-isolate.

**Notes:**

1. Tidesurge in refit during the period specified
2. Tidespring not deployed during the period specified. Less than five personnel listed reside at overseas addresses.
3. Tiderace(E). A number were instructed no requirement due to Defence Exemption. (F). Majority went by the Government website and isolated accordingly with family or at Hotels.
4. Tideforce(B). Less than five persons with overseas addresses joined within the timeframe specified. (D). Joining instructions stating the requirement to self- isolate were emailed to all persons regardless of country of origin.

5. Cardigan Bay(C). 7 RFA personnel in Feb 21 were instructed to self-isolate. This was as a result of the exemption for Merchant Seafarers previously applied being withdrawn by the MoD and DAN 18 not yet being validated for use by RFA personnel. (E). For period Mar 20 – Feb 21 RFA Personnel were instructed to apply self-isolation exemption in accordance with Merchant Seafarer Status.

For the period Feb 21 – present RFA Personnel have been exempt from requirement to self-isolate upon arrival in the UK in accordance with DAN 18 / letters of exemption issued by COMOPS / COMRFA.

6. Mounts Bay/Wave Knight/Fort Victoria not deployed during the period specified.