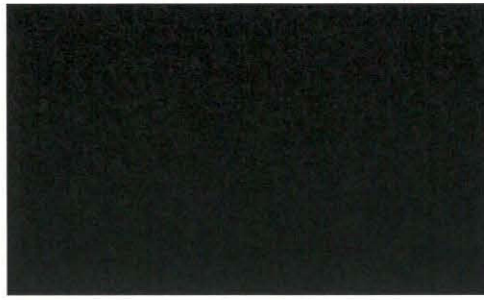


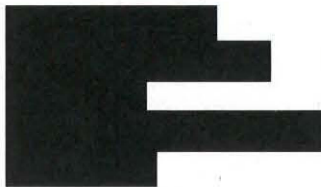


Ministry  
of Defence


FOI2021/05116



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



27 May 2021

Dear ,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 May 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'As HMS Queen Elizabeth embarks upon her first operational deployment, it stands to reason that a calculation will have been performed to determine the actual deep load displacement of the vessel for this voyage.

Demonstrably, this figure will differ from that most commonly quoted and repeated in all media sources, namely 65,000 tonnes - the nominal displacement at launch.

Every potato taken aboard will add to the vessel's displacement; every pint of milk; every round of small arms ammunition; every Royal Marine; every tonne of aviation fuel and ordnance; every F-35B Lightning II aircraft every Merlin helicopter - all and everything. This is how the United States Navy quote the displacement of their vessels when fully operational. It would be informative to be able to compare like with like.

At launch, the former USS Forrestal (CV-59) - the first of the so called 'supercarriers' and subsequently accepted as such right up to her decommissioning in 1993 - displaced some 4,500 tonnes or thereabouts less than HMS Queen Elizabeth at the same point. Fully laden, the Forrestal displaced around 17,000 tonnes more than the nominal displacement of Queen Elizabeth. The 'size' equivalence or otherwise is nonsensical - but is still the measure employed.

Based upon the aforementioned premiss, please provide me with the fully laden displacement as calculated or computed - in metric tonnes - of HMS Queen Elizabeth as anticipated for 'CSG21'.

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

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

In response to your request, I can tell you that the deep displacement figure for HMS Queen Elizabeth is 65,300 tonnes.

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](mailto: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