



Ministry
of Defence



FOI2020/02072

E-mail: Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk



10 June 2020

Dear 

Release of Information

Further to our correspondence of 11 May 2020, I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request for the following information:

I am writing to you with specific questions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the UK involvement/interest in the US Navy's Littoral Combat Ship (LCS).

- Did the UK MoD engage in any conversation with the US Department of Defense or US Navy officials regarding the development of the US Navy's Littoral Combat Ship programme?
- Did the UK MoD ever inquire as to the cost in either joining the programme or procuring vessels from the running production line?

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

As explained in our interim response, a search was completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and it was confirmed that the Department held some information in scope of your request. It was further explained however that this information may fall within the scope of the qualified exemption under Section 27 (International Relations) of the Act. On further consideration of the information, it has been determined that Section 27 (International Relations) does not apply on this occasion and no longer applies to your request.

In response to part one of your request, I can confirm that while the MOD engaged in conversations with the US Department of Defense/US Navy Officials however, we hold no recorded information on the content of those conversations.

In response to part two of your request, the Department holds no recorded information to confirm that the MOD inquired as to the cost of either joining the US Navy's Littoral Combat Ship programme or procuring vessels from the running production line.

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 (email 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