



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2021/07607

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

30 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

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

'Please send me the regulations and other documents dealing with the selection process, duties & pay for ship sponsors.

Please also provide a list of current ship sponsors if available.'

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

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

In response to part one of your request, I can advise that there are no official Terms of Reference for the role of Lady Sponsor. However, I can tell you that the Lady Sponsor role is derived from the Latin term for a guarantor or patron and was originally associated with person who presented a child for baptism; the Godparent, being the closest analogy. Historically the primary consideration when selecting a sponsor has been to seek a strong and enduring personal connection between the vessel and the sponsor to encourage a sustained and positive relationship, supporting the ship's moral profile. The list of existing and past sponsors dates back to 1953 and is exclusively made up of women. There is, however, no historical reason as to why the sponsor must be female; male sponsors were common into the 20th Century.

I can also confirm that Lady Sponsors are chosen by the Ships Names and Badges Committee and that they do not receive any pay for their role.

In response to part two of your request, a list of current ship sponsors can be found at Annex A to this letter.

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). 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

List of Ship Sponsors

Ship	Ship Sponsor
HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH	HM The Queen
HMS PRINCE OF WALES	The Duchess of Cornwall
HMS ALBION	Princess Anne
HMS BULWARK	Lady Victoria Walker
HMS DARING	HRH The Countess of Wessex
HMS DAUNTLESS	Lady Burnell-Nugent
HMS DIAMOND	Lady Suzie Johns
HMS DRAGON	Mrs Boissier
HMS DEFENDER	Lady Massey
HMS DUNCAN	Lady Marine Ibbotson
HMS ARGYLL	Lady Wendy Levene of Portsoken
HMS IRON DUKE	Lady Jane King
HMS KENT	Princess Alexandra of Kent
HMS LANCASTER	HM The Queen
HMS MONMOUTH	Lady Sheena Eaton
HMS MONTROSE	Lady Edith Rifkind
HMS NORTHUMBERLAND	Lady Anne Kerr
HMS PORTLAND	Lady Heather Brigstocke
HMS RICHMOND	Lady Ann Hill-Norton
HMS SOMERSET	Lady Elsbeth Layard
HMS ST ALBANS	Lady Susie Essenheigh
HMS SUTHERLAND	Lady Christina Walmsley
HMS WESTMINISTER	Lady Sally Livesey
HMS MERSEY	Mrs Jennie Reeve
HMS SEVERN	Professor Felicity Guild
HMS TYNE	Lady Carolyn Squire
HMS FORTH	Mrs Rachel Johnstone-Burt
HMS MEDWAY	Lady Wendy Fallon
HMS TRENT	Lady Potts
HMS TAMAR	Lady Peach
HMS PROTECTOR	Lady Beverly Matthews
HMS ECHO	Lady Haddacks
HMS ENTERPRISE	Mrs Sally Forbes
HMS SCOTT	Mrs Carolyn Portillo
HMS MAGPIE	Mrs Theresa Gardner
HMS BANGOR	Lady Lisa Spencer
HMS BLYTH	Lady Charlotte Garnett
HMS GRIMSBY	Lady Candice Blackham
HMS PEMBROKE	Mrs Stephanie Gretton
HMS PENZANCE	HRH Princess of Kent

HMS RAMSEY	Lady Allynne Dunt
HMS SHOREHAM	Lady Nicola Perowne
HMS BROCKLESBY	Lady Patricia Trenchard
HMS CATTISTOCK	Lady June Berger
HMS CHIDDINGFOLD	Ms Clare Kennon
HMS HURWORTH	Lady Halifax
HMS LEDBURY	Lady Elizabeth Berthon
HMS MIDDLETON	Lady Jennifer Blacker
HMS ASTUTE	The Duchess of Cornwall
HMS AMBUSH	Lady Soar
HMS ARTFUL	Lady Amanda Zambellas
HMS AUDACIOUS	Lady Elizabeth Jones
HMS ANSON	Mrs P Barker
HMS VANGUARD	Lady Tracy Wilkinson
HMS VICTORIOUS	Lady Heather Newman
HMS VIGILANT	Lady Jane Frere
HMS VENGEANCE	Lady Sandra Robertson
HMS TALENT	HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal
HMS TRENCHANT	Lady Meriel Hunt
HMS TRIUMPH	The Hon Lady Hamilton
RFA ARGUS	Lady Pamela Blielloch
RFA WAVE KNIGHT	Lady Catherine Guthrie
RFA WAVE RULER	Ms Elaine Dunslow
RFA FORT AUSTIN	Mrs Gwendolyn Stephen
RFA FORT ROSALIE	Mrs Eileen M Glue
RFA FORT VICTORIA	HRH The Duchess of York
RFA CARDIGAN BAY	Lady Jan Stanhope
RFA LYME BAY	Lady Fry
RFA MOUNTS BAY	Lady Sarah Band
RFA TIDESPURRING	Lady Boyce
RFA TIDERACE	Mrs Anita Lister
RFA TIDESURGE	Mrs Joanna Woodcock
HMS DASHER	Lady Mary Broers
HMS EXAMPLE	Mrs P Barker
HMS SABRE	Lady Durie
HMS SCIMITAR	Lady Durie