



Ministry  
of Defence

[REDACTED]

FOI2021/10473

E-mail: [NavyStratPol-SECFI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NavyStratPol-SECFI@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]

7 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 September 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'Further to my request for information regarding berthing at Portland Port, thank you for your response, although perhaps I worded my request badly, as I termed the visit by RFA vessels as being on a long-term basis, and you do not consider any RFA ships are berthed at Portland Port on a long term basis. I have been told that until a few years ago you berthed RFA ships for approximately 260 days a year at Portland Port, but this has now gone up by 20-30% in the last few years, which I took to mean a long-term basis... is this incorrect do you not use Portland Port to berth RFA ships for between 260 and 338 days each year?

Thank you for confirming that the power facility at the port is not the correct format required by the RFA ships and therefore all RFA ships use their own onboard power whilst at Portland Port, please could you let me know what the RFA ship power is, whether it's a low sulphur fuel and what the fuel is. The reason I ask is because there is a proposal to build a waste incinerator at Portland Port to provide onshore power supply to your ships (and cruise ships) and I am trying to ascertain how much savings in emissions it would be for your RFA ships to be able to switch off their own power supply and utilize the onshore power supply provided by a waste incinerator, should the planning permission be granted for a waste incinerator in Portland Port.'

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

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

In response to the first part of your request, I should advise you that the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ships use the berths at Portland Port Dorset as and when required based on the operational need.

With regard the second part of your request in relation to RFA ships power and fuel, RFA ships normally generate their own power and operate on Marine Naval Fuel F76 (Diesel) and Marine Gas Oil, all of which are low sulphur content as per International Maritime Organization regulations. They have the capability to receive external power from either shore generators or off the national grid where the infrastructure is available.

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