



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2021/07338

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

29 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 July 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'I would like to know the movements and activities of HMS Southampton for the following dates if at all possible.

JAN 1996 - NOVEMBER 1996

SEPTEMBER 1997 - DECEMBER 1997

JANUARY 2002 - OCTOBER 2002

JUNE 2003 - AUGUST 2004'

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. With the exception of HMS SOUTHAMPTON's movements for the period January to August 1996 and January to October 2002 for which no recorded information is held, details of their movements for the other specified dates 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

**HMS SOUTHAMPTON Ship Movements**

9 September 1996: Change of command  
10-12 September: Recovery trials period  
13-16 September: Plymouth  
20-26 September: Preparations in Plymouth Sound  
27-28 September: Passage  
28-29 September: Sea Dart High Seas Firing in company with HMS Liverpool  
29-30 September: Passage  
30 September – 10 October: Plymouth  
11 October – 8 November: Portsmouth for maintenance period  
11-15 November: Recovery training period  
18 November: Deployed on Operation ARMILLA  
18-22 November: Passage, including Passex with French and Portuguese Air Forces  
22-23 November: Gibraltar  
24-28 November: Passage to Souda Bay

1-8 September 1997: Main Summer Leave alongside in Portsmouth  
10-12 September: Recovery training period  
12-16 September: Port visit Southampton  
16-19 September: Recovery training period  
19-29 September: Alongside Portsmouth for maintenance  
29 September – 2 October: Staff College Sea Days  
3-6 October: Port visit to Guernsey for HMS Charybdis commemorative weekend  
6-9 October: Weapon training  
9-13 October: Port visit to Amsterdam  
14-22 October: Autumn Exercise North Sea  
17-20 October: Port visit to Kristiansand  
22-24 October: Passage  
24 October – 10 November: Joint Maritime Course exercise  
9-13 November: Faslane  
14-16 November: Support to Submarine Command Course  
17-19 November: Support to HMS Spartan operational sea training  
19-21 November: Passage  
22 November – 15 December: Alongside Portsmouth whilst assigned as the Fleet Read Escort  
18 December: De-ammunitioning  
19 December – 5 January 1998: Christmas leave

1-2 June 2003: Alongside in Glasgow  
3-6 June: Support to Submarine Command Course  
7-9 June: Transit  
9-11 June: Aberdeen for RN in the Public Eye  
10-12 June: Passage  
12-13 June: Dundee for RN in the Public Eye  
15-18 June: Passage  
19-24 June: Alongside in Portsmouth  
23-25 June: De-ammunition

26-30 June: Alongside in Portsmouth  
1 July – 31 January 2004: Portsmouth, Docking Period  
1-4 February: Alongside in Portsmouth  
5 February: Ready for Sea Date Inspection  
6-8 February: Safety trials, defect rectification  
9-11 February: Engineering trials at sea  
12-13 February: Ammunitioning  
14-19 February: Trials at sea  
20-22 February: Alongside Portsmouth  
23-27 February: Sea trials  
28 February – 1 March: Portsmouth  
1-4 March: Sea trials  
5-7 March: Portsmouth  
8-11 March: Sea trials  
11-20 March: Portsmouth  
21-25 March: Shakedown and trials period  
24 March – 6 May: South Coast Exercise areas and Devonport for Basic Operational Sea Training  
6 -7 May: Weapon engineering trials  
7-31 May: Portsmouth for Easter leave and self-maintenance period  
1-4 June: Passage  
4-7 June: Faslane  
7-11 June: Support to Submarine Command Course  
11-14 June: Liverpool  
14-18 June: Belfast  
18-20 June: Support to Submarine Command Course  
21 June – 2 Jul: Joint Maritime Course exercise  
3-4 July: Support to Submarine Command Course  
5-6 July: Passage  
6 July – 10 September: Portsmouth, maintenance and summer leave