



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2023/03662

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[REDACTED]

11 April 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 April 2022 in which you requested the following information:

- "I would like to make an FOI request regarding the
- decision making/reasoning,
 - sourcing,
 - Issuing of Black Caps, for Officers, Senior and junior rates in the Submarine service.
- Wether they will be provided for all members of the Royal Navy, especially those in colder, northern waters?
- I would like to know why, incorrectly it has been advertised that only submariners have worn black caps?
- when they did in fact get issued to the service fleet for decades, vice versa submariners often wore white Caps.
(Black in winter, white in summer)
- Finally will black caps be issued to the surface fleet?
- Noting that in winter months they are warmer and made of a more robust material- saliors of the surface fleet working outside for far longer then their submariner counterparts will need this extra warmth (from experience)
- I would be looking for a summary on each the the requests.
Preferably electronic copies"

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

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 your request, I can confirm that there are no plans to provide black cap covers to all Royal Navy (RN) personnel, only eligible submariners. I can further advise that RN personnel do not typically wear caps on a daily basis., The majority of RN personnel now wear RN Personal Clothing System or Rig 22 and a cap is not routinely worn with either of these uniforms.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, further information in relation to the 'Submarine Service Uniform – Wearing of Black Cap Covers' can be found in Royal Navy Temporary Memorandum (RNTM) 03-033/21 which is enclosed with this letter.

Please be advised that personal information and contact details relating to individuals contained within RNTM 03-033/21 has been withheld under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties, the release of which would contravene the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance, the document was intended for internal purposes only and not with the expectation that it would be made public.

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). 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

SUBMARINE SERVICE UNIFORM – WEARING OF BLACK CAP COVERS

Sponsor: P&T N9 SO1 Exec - [REDACTED]

Liaison: COMSUBFLOT CoS - [REDACTED]

26 Oct 21

Introduction

1. In 1971, Flag Officer Submarines, VAdm Sir John Roxburgh KCB CBE DSO DSC and Bar, awarded the first submarine dolphins on Ceremonial Divisions held at HMS DOLPHIN. This event marked the recognition of the submarine services' unique ethos and pride. In commemoration of this event and to continue to recognise this ethos, approval has been given for all qualified submariners to wear black cap covers from 8 Nov 21. The Submarine Service ethos is a key element for the retention of SM personnel and remains part of the attraction for both new recruits and transferees from other elements of the RN.

Aim

3. The aim of this RNTM is to provide details on the eligibility to wear a black cap cover.

Eligibility

4. Following authorisation by the Senior Leadership Team¹, all qualified submariners will be eligible to wear a black cap cover from 8 Nov 21. Black covers are now available for ranks and rates.

5. Qualified submariners are **authorised** to wear black cap covers **except** for major ceremonial events as detailed below:

Ceremonial Event	Examples	Cap Colour
Major event with mixed platoons of SM and GS	OP Bridge, November Ceremonies, Edinburgh Tattoo, Public Duties etc.	White
Major event with separate platoons of SM and GS	Neptune 50	Black
Major event with mixed RGoH	HMNB Divisions, State opening of Scottish parliament etc.	White
Major event with SM RGoH	SM led events, SM Remembrance Parade, CASD 50 Parade etc.	Black
Minor event	Passing out parades, weekly Establishment Divisions	Black

¹ 1SL, 2SL and Fleet Commander.

Supply and Funding

6. The addition of black cap covers to the clothing catalogue is ongoing. Until such time, qualified individuals are authorised to purchase black caps or covers at personal cost from the following link: [tw-bracher black-teflon-coated-cap-cover](http://tw-bracher.black-teflon-coated-cap-cover.com) (www).

Review

7. This change will be incorporated into BR3 at the next review.