



Fleet Headquarters

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Our Ref: 13-03-2006-172157-025

Mr xxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxx
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
xxxxxxx
Via email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.co.uk

28 June 2006

Dear Mr xxxxxxxx,

Release of Information

Further to my email of 8 June 2006, I am writing to inform you that the task of considering the release of the information you requested on 13 March 2006, regarding the Report of Proceedings of HMS Antrim for the period she was in the Falklands War, is now complete.

I can confirm that this Department holds information of the description specified in your request and believes that some of the information falls within the scope of exemptions in the FOI Act at section 23 (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) and section 26 (Defence). Therefore, a redacted copy of the report is being released.

After careful consideration, and in reliance on the absolute exemption under 23, there is no obligation under the Act to disclose the information. No further information is provided in relation to this exemption, in reliance on section 17(4) of the Act.

As the exemption under section 26 is a qualified exemption, we have considered the balance of the public interest in disclosing and withholding this information. The disclosure of detailed information about sonar transmission, capabilities and usage - which is still extant today - could compromise the capabilities and combat-readiness of the Royal Navy. On balance, therefore, the conclusion has been reached that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in its release, in other words, that section 2(2)(b) of the Act applies.

This letter constitutes the notice to be given under section 17(1), (3) and (7) of the Act.

If you are dissatisfied with this decision or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@mod.uk).

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint 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 any MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Signed on original