



[REDACTED]
Defence Equipment & Support
Policy Secretariat (Submarines)
Maple 0 #2043
DE&S Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



DESSEC-PolSecShipsandSubs@mod.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Our reference:
FOI2014/03396

28 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to the letter I sent to you on 8 September 2014, I am writing to provide a substantive response to your request for nuclear safety event information. You requested:

'How many nuclear safety events have there [been] on nuclear Submarines in the waters of Gareloch and in the Naval Base at Faslane, in the last 10 years?'

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information that falls within scope of your request. This has been provided in two parts below covering the last ten complete years from 1 April 04 to 30 March 2014.

How many nuclear safety events have there been in the Naval Base at Faslane in the last ten years?

There have been 730 events recorded by the nuclear safety event reporting system at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde. These have all registered as level 0 (below scale) on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES), which is defined as "no safety significance".

How many nuclear safety events have there been on nuclear Submarines in the waters of Gareloch in the last ten years?

There have been 261 such events recorded within the Dockyard Port of HMNB Clyde, covering the whole of the Gareloch. One of these registered at level 1 on the INES scale and the remainder were level 0.

There may be a duplication of a small number of recorded events between those that have happened onboard submarines in Gareloch and those in the HMNB Clyde.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance), you may be interested to know that the majority of the recorded events have no significant safety implications, for example, incorrect labelling of an empty pallet, or not filling out the correct form before painting inside the submarine. However, because the MOD has comprehensive reporting systems it ensures that all events, no matter how minor, are reported and investigated, and remedial action taken where necessary.

You may also like to know that the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES), which is a worldwide tool designed by the International Atomic Energy Agency as
Defence Equipment & Support

a means of communicating to the public, in a consistent way, the safety significance of nuclear and radiological events. Events are classified on the scale at seven levels (not including level 0): levels one to three are called incidents; and levels four to seven are called accidents. For further information on the INES please use the following link: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/ines.asp>.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied 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 investigate your case until the 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.ico.gov.uk>.

Please contact me at the address above should you have any questions about your request.

Yours sincerely,

