



Ministry
of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 3 December 2015 which requested the following information:-

“Please could you provide me with information on vessels seized by HMS Richmond since its deployment off the coast of Libya in September.

For each seizure please provide the following information:

Date of seizure

Type of ship seized

Flag of ship

Number of trafficked persons believed to be on-board

Port that seized ship returned to”

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. First, however, we should explain that HMS Richmond was deployed to support the European Union Naval Force – Mediterranean Operation Sophia between 25 October and 21 November 2015, and not from September as your email suggests. During her deployment HMS Richmond participated in three maritime distress incidents.

The details you have requested which we hold in relation to these incidents are set out in the table below. You will wish to note that although we have provided the total number of persons rescued during these incidents, we are unable to confirm how

many of these persons may have been trafficked rather than being refugees or economic migrants.

Date of incident.	28 October 2015	4 November 2015 ¹	5 November 2015
Type of Ship Seized.	Medium sized rubber inflatable boat powered by a commercially available engine.	Large wooden fishing vessel.	Medium sized rubber inflatable boat powered by a commercially available engine.
Flag of Ship.	None	Information not held	None
Number of persons rescued.	102	517	134
Port that seized ship returned to.	The vessel was destroyed <i>in situ</i> as a threat to navigation in accordance with customary international law.	Information not held.	The vessel was destroyed <i>in situ</i> as a threat to navigation in accordance with customary international law.

We hope that this is helpful. 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 this office 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat

¹ The response to this incident was led by the Spanish Frigate SPS Canarias with HMS Richmond in support. As a result we do not hold all of the information you have requested.