



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
MP 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY

2016-03951

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
18 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 7 April 2016 requesting the following information:

1. *In the last 5 years what ships of the Royal Navy have been on deployments involving counter narcotics?*
2. *Were any of the operations joint with UK boarder forces or coastguard?*
3. *Were any of the operations joint with foreign Navy, boarder forces or coastguard?*
4. *What were the:*
 - *drug types seized*
 - *quantities of each seizure*
 - *estimated street value*
5. *How many arrests and of those how many convictions were made in connection to any of the drug seizures in the past 5 years?*
6. *What is the total cost of operations for Royal Navy ships deployed in counter narcotic operations in the past 5 years?*

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

I can confirm that the Department holds the information within the scope of your request and is contained in Annex A attached to this letter.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

Q1. In the last 5 years what ships of the Royal Navy have been on deployments involving counter narcotics?

A1. Royal Navy and RFA ships that have been on deployments involving counter narcotics are as follows:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RFA Wave Ruler HMS York	HMS Westminster HMS Dauntless	HMS Northumberland RFA Wave Knight HMS Lancaster HMS Argyll	RFA Wave Knight HMS Somerset HMS Argyll	HMS Richmond HMS Somerset RFA Lyme Bay HMS Severn	HMS Mersey

Q2. Were any of the operations joint with UK Boarder Forces or coastguard?

A2. Operations involving Joint UK/Border Force or Coastguard

2015 HMS Somerset / UK Border Force
HMS Severn / UK Border Force

Q3. Were any of the operations joint with a foreign Navy, Boarder Forces or Coastguard?

A3. Operations involving Foreign Navy /Border Force or Coastguard

2011 RFA Wave Ruler on Joint Interagency Task Force (South) JIATF(S)

2013 HMS Lancaster with US Coastguard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET)
RFA Wave Knight with LEDET

2014 HMS Argyll with LEDET

2015 RFA Lyme Bay on JIATF(S)

2016 HMS Mersey on JIATF(S)

Q4. What were the Types of drugs seized, quantities of each seizure and estimated street value?

A4.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cocaine (tonnes)	1.68	0	1.34	3.061	0
Cannabis (tonnes)	0	0	2.65	2.5	2.5

Street Value Assuming Cocaine £40,000/kg and Cannabis £2,880/kg

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Street Value (£m)	£67m	0	£60m	£122m	£53m

Q5. How many arrests and of those how many convictions were made in connection to any of the drug seizures in the past 5 years?

A5. The majority of the Royal Navy's Counter narcotic operations happen as part of Atlantic Patrol Tasking (N). Under this construct we work with US Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachments, which means that all arrests and prosecutions happen under their jurisdiction. As such we would not be privy to the outcome of any interdictions in the form of arrest and/ or prosecution within another State.

Q6. What is the total cost of operations for Royal Navy ships deployed in counter narcotic operations in the last 5 years?

A6. The Royal Navy Finance Department does not routinely analyse and collate the costs of the involvement of RN assets in exercises such as this. Output costing methodologies and processes are not in place within the Department to provide this information and there is currently no requirement for costs to be reported for this type of defence activity.