



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
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Ref. 2016/08608

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[REDACTED]
Via email: [REDACTED]

6 October 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13 September 2016 requesting the following information:

“what is the current out of service date of the following ships:

1. *HMS Albion*
2. *HMS Bulwark*
3. *RFA Lyme Bay*
4. *RFA Mounts Bay*
5. *RFA Cardigan Bay*

What is the status of new projects to provide the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary with new ocean going ships fitted with internal docks to allow the operation of landing craft capable of carrying vehicles. In particular:

1. *Are there any extant endorsed requirements for new shipping of this type?*
2. *Are any assessment, concept demonstration or manufacturing contracts for shipping of this type under preparation or been let?*
3. *If there are any projects for new ships of this type of shipping underway, on what date are they planned to enter service?”*

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

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that the information requested is held.

The currently projected out-of-service dates of the vessels you have requested are:

HMS Albion	- 2033
HMS Bulwark	- 2034
RFA Lyme Bay	- 2032
RFA Mounts Bay	- 2031
RFA Cardigan Bay	- 2031

With regard to your questions about future projects the answers are:

Q1 – There are no extant endorsed requirements for new shipping of this type to be procured for the RN or RFA.

Q2. No preparations have been made for any new shipping of this type to be procured for the RN or RFA .

Q3. No projects exist for new shipping of this type to be procured for the RN or RFA.

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, Zone K, 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://.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Navy Command - FOI Section