



Fleet Headquarters

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Our Reference: 10-04-2007-170658-013

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20 June 2007

Dear Mr XXXXXXX,

Request for Information

Further to our previous letter dated 11 May 2007, I am now in a position to provide a substantive response to your request for information communicated to HMS CORNWALL on March 23 2007 from the party of 15 Royal Naval personnel who were detained by IRAN.

The information you have requested is attached. The references within the attached document to FREEZER was the call sign used for HMS CORNWALL, and those to ROCKET and ZOOM the call signs for the seaboats. Some of the information within the document has been withheld as it is believed that it falls within the scope of the exemption at Section 26 (Defence) of the Freedom of Information Act. After careful consideration, and for the reasons set out below, it is concluded that there is no obligation under the Act to disclose this information.

Section 26(1)(b) of the Act states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces. As this is a qualified exemption, we have considered the balance of the public interest in disclosing and withholding the information by maintaining the exemption. We have decided that if released, the information would compromise the effectiveness of Royal Naval operations and prejudice the operational capability and effectiveness of our Armed Forces. 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 required to be given under section 17(1), (3) and (7) of the Act.

You may also wish to note that information about the detention of the 15 RN/RM personnel by the Iranians and related media handling is available in the publication

of the Hall Report and the statement on the Fulton Review. These may be found on the MOD website at the following link [www.mod.uk/hall report](http://www.mod.uk/hall-report)

If you are unhappy 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 Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@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 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 investigate the case until the 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>.

Yours Sincerely

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