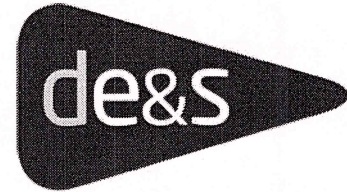




MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Our Reference:
DES-PolSec-AD3/1/12/2
20-08-2007-095234-003
(RFI 238)

Date:
2 October 2007

Dear Rev Ainslie,

Further to my letter of 14 September about your request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, please find attached the following information you requested on the briefing made to industry on the Future Nuclear Deterrent on 29 June 2007:

- Presentation – “Strategy for Delivery” by Andrew MacKinder, Team Leader of the Future Submarines Integrated Project Team
- “Keynote address” by David Gould, Chief Operating Officer, DE&S
- Presentation by Tom McKane, the then Director General (DG) Strategic Requirements
- Presentation – “Challenges to Delivery” by Rear Admiral Mathews, DG Submarines
- Presentation by Nick Bennett, DG Strategic Technology

No minutes or reports of the briefings were made.

Certain details and in some cases entire pages have been redacted (removed) from the documents as they contain information that falls within the scope of qualified exemptions s26 (Defence), s27 (International Relations) and s35 (Formulation of Government Policy) of the FOI Act. A public interest test was carried out in each case and has concluded that some information should not be released. A summary is attached at Annex A. It should also be noted that some information within the documents has been redacted (removed) using absolute exemption s40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act. All names, telephone numbers and email addresses of MOD personnel have been redacted as this information is covered by the exemption and adds no additional value to the information that has been provided.

In addition, it may be helpful if I explained the background to this issue, and why we held the industry briefing. On 4 December 2006 the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Tony Blair MP, announced that the UK would retain a minimum assured independent strategic nuclear deterrent when the current Vanguard Class of deterrent submarines (SSBNs) leave service in 2024, by building a replacement class of submarine and participating in the US Trident D5 missile life-extension programme. Following the positive Parliamentary vote on 14 March 2007, the Director General Strategic Requirements (DGSR) and the

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Director General Submarines (DGSM) then charged the Director Future Submarines with coordination and programme management of delivery of the new deterrent submarine programme from within DE&S.

As you may be aware, within the context of the Defence Industrial Strategy, MOD is looking to widen engagement with Industry. One means of doing this is through Industry Days such as that held on 29 June. A briefing on the background to the programme was given and on the MOD's approach to taking it forward. The aim was to ensure that industry had the opportunity to consider how they might support the programme. During the day, Mr Tom McKane (DGSR) provided information on the government's decision and context for retention of the independent strategic nuclear deterrent, to set the scene for the delivery programme. Rear Admiral Andrew Mathews RN (DGSM) and Mr Nick Bennett (DG Strat Tech) described the aspirations and challenges to meet through the acquisition and through life capability management of the new deterrent system and in doing so, outlined the opportunities for industry over the next phase of the programme. The Future Submarine Team Leader also provided information on the progress made to date and our current strategies for delivery of the system, particularly to explain the basis for industrial engagement within these initial stages of the programme.

If you are unhappy with the information I have provided or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request then you should contact me in the first instance. Should you still be dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB. Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months 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 web site, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely

Carly Amos
For Director Secretariat