



Ref: 21-01-2010-145428-001

Request for Information: Release of Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear Martin Butcher,

Thank you for your email which we received on 21 January 2010 in which you made the following request:

*Dear Sir or Madam,*

*This is a Freedom of Information request. As of January 2010, has the Secretary of State for Defence made the 'initial gate' decision to proceed with the replacement programme for the Vanguard class nuclear missile submarines?*

*If not, what is the timetable for such a decision?*

*If yes, have any contracts been issued pursuant to the 'initial gate' decision, and at what cost?*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Martin Butcher*

As reported in Hansard, on 11 January 2010 (Column 402) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Quentin Davies) stated:

*“This is an incredibly important decision and we need to get it right. We have come up with one or two possible new technical options for the design of the successor class submarine, and we will need a few more months to evaluate those fully before we take a decision.”*

As the Initial Gate decision has not been taken, no contracts have been issued.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [xxx@xxx](mailto:xxx@xxx)). 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.gov.uk>.

Mark Taylor