



THE UNITED KINGDOM
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

ADMIRALTY WAY · TAUNTON · SOMERSET · TA1 2DN · TELEPHONE +44 (0)1823 337900 · FAX +44 (0)1823 284077
www.ukho.gov.uk

Mr S J Dowden

Our Ref: FOI 66739 /454175

11 October 2010

request-43183-97601839@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Dowden

Your communication dated 31.07.10 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find below information regarding the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is drawn:

The baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is determined, is the normal baseline as specified in Article 5 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with the exception of that around the islands on the west coast of Scotland between Cape Wrath and the Mull of Kintyre which is determined in accordance with Article 7 of UNCLOS by straight baselines.

The normal baseline according to Article 5 is the low waterline along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognised by the coastal State. The UKHO does not maintain a list of the coordinates of the points which make up the baseline therefore none is available. The limits of the territorial sea are shown on the 1:200,000 scale series of charts, and the low waterline is of course as shown on the largest scale charts around the UK.

The coordinates of the straight baselines are contained within the The Territorial Sea (Amendment) Order 1996 and can be found at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si199616.htm>

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, 2nd Floor, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Christabelle Brimpong
Communications Manager