



Ministry
of Defence

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Mr J Stafford
request-428171-689b4787@whatdotheyknow.com

29 September 2017

Dear Mr Stafford,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 August 2017 in which you requested the following information:

'I am interested in an incident involving an accidental release of a Sting Ray torpedo training round from HMS Argyll which took place in Devonport Dockyard in 2014. There is a report about the incident in the Daily Telegraph here:

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.telegraph.co.uk_finance_newsbysector_industry_defence_10697895_Navy-2Dwarship-2Daccidentally-2Dfires-2Dtorpedo-2Dat-2Dnuclear-2Ddockyard.html&d=DwICaQ&c=axaOw2qHyp7zEDNbTjpgYA&r=338_LDUXi2CRJzQpHh2t-)

[3A__www.telegraph.co.uk_finance_newsbysector_industry_defence_10697895_Navy-2Dwarship-2Daccidentally-2Dfires-2Dtorpedo-2Dat-2Dnuclear-2Ddockyard.html&d=DwICaQ&c=axaOw2qHyp7zEDNbTjpgYA&r=338_LDUXi2CRJzQpHh2t-w&m=mukHOdlpxlk1mrn6qDEuDedT5PEBi1BqkSFtC4wjbVI&s=2_wPMaRdVaBkov0NKHP0yX0ic1VCtmTMwwwbXN1IXH6A&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.telegraph.co.uk_finance_newsbysector_industry_defence_10697895_Navy-2Dwarship-2Daccidentally-2Dfires-2Dtorpedo-2Dat-2Dnuclear-2Ddockyard.html&d=DwICaQ&c=axaOw2qHyp7zEDNbTjpgYA&r=338_LDUXi2CRJzQpHh2t-w&m=mukHOdlpxlk1mrn6qDEuDedT5PEBi1BqkSFtC4wjbVI&s=2_wPMaRdVaBkov0NKHP0yX0ic1VCtmTMwwwbXN1IXH6A&e=)

Please can you tell me what the cause of the accidental firing was, and provide a copy of the reports of the investigation and any inquiry into the incident.'

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. A copy of the Ships Investigation Learning Account investigating the inadvertent discharge of a Training Variant Torpedo (TVT) from HMS Argyll whilst alongside HM Naval Base Devonport is included with this letter which explains the cause of the incident and remedial action taken after.

For the information that the Department is able to provide, please be advised that some of the information requested falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption - Section s40(Personal Data).

The personal information of individuals has been withheld under section 40(2) of the FOI Act (personal data).

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met, and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes. In this instance, data has been provided for internal purposes and not with the expectation that it would be made public.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section