



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Policy Secretariat – Ships

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Mr EJ Boyle
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4 February 2019 Our Reference: FOI2019/00237

Dear Mr Boyle

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2019, in which you requested the following information about records held by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the treatment of Barnacles on the Royal Navy's ship hulls:

what measures the Royal Navy takes to prevent or rectify barnacles on the exterior of the hulls of its vessels. It is known that in the past these were detrimental in the speed and efficiency of Her Majesty's ships. What materials and methods are currently used.

If a short, simple and easy history of the subject since 1945, is available script, access or reference will oblige.

I can advise that we have been treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and can confirm that the MOD holds some information that falls within the scope of your request.

In addressing the first part of your request, I can confirm the MOD uses anti-fouling paints, within a coating system, to control micro and macro fouling (including barnacles). Two different types of anti-fouling coatings are used, which are self-polishing biocidal coatings and non-biocidal foul-release coatings. The coatings used conform to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling systems on ships as adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in October 2001. The range of coatings approved for use and offering advice and guidance on the Royal Navy's (RN) surface ships and submarines, are detailed in the bi-annual technical publication entitled WARPAIN (published in March and September), and can be found by using the following link on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/warpaint>

For the second part of your question, I can confirm that no information is held by the MOD. Under Section 16(1) of the FOIA, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to applicants. I can advise that records held on types of products used historically by the RN may be available from the National Archives at Kew in London, its address is:

The National Archives,

Ruskin Avenue,
Kew,
Surrey
TW9 4DU.

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.gov.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

DE&S Secretariat (ships)