



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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Ref: FOI2017/03197

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Mr G Cartwright
request-394329-c4476756@whatdotheyknow.com

7 April 2017

Dear Mr Cartwright,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 March 2017 requesting the following information:

'Could you please advise me of the rationale behind the decision to equip the new Queen Elizabeth class of aircraft carriers with the 20mm Phalanx Close In Weapons System (CIWS), manufactured by Raytheon, and not the 30mm Goalkeeper CIWS produced by Thales Naval?

Please also advise me as to which other CIWS systems were presented in the tendering process for the carriers.'

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

This letter is to inform you that the Ministry of Defence holds some information related to your request, but that we believe the information falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption s43 (Commercial Interests). As such, it is necessary for us to decide whether, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

S43 – Commercial Interests

Under s43(2), information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). It is likely that some of the information may contain commercially sensitive material which, if disclosed, may prejudice the current and future commercial interests of the Department.

The Freedom of Information Act requires us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for responses to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we plan to let you have a response by the 10 May 2017.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, Zone D, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section