



Ministry
of Defence

**Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2017/09144

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17 May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Release of Information

Further to our correspondence of 14 February 2022, we are now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request for the following information:

‘Please provide a copy of any complaints made by the Royal Navy since 1 June 2017 to The Times newspaper.’

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

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In response to your request, I can advise that at the time your original request was received, as at 1 June 2017, the Royal Navy (RN) had made one complaint to The Times newspaper. A copy of the complaint is enclosed with this letter.

Please be advised that personal information and contact details relating to individuals has been withheld under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties, the release of which would contravene the Data Protection Act 2018. In this instance, the document was intended for internal purposes only between the RN and The Times newspaper only and not with the expectation that it would be made public.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may be interested to know that The Times issued the following correction on 27 September 2017:

“In a Diary item on July 21 we suggested two Royal Navy submariners had been “well refreshed” when they spoke with the prime minister at a Downing Street

reception. In fact, they are teetotal. We apologise for our incorrect assumption. The men have stated that, contrary to our report, they did not mention pornography to the prime minister. We are happy to put this on the record.”

Further details of the correction can be found at the following link:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/corrections-and-clarifications-2016-17-jwjl8qrh>

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@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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section