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Pat
via email: xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

5 December 2008

Dear Pat,

Release of Information

Further to our letter of 14 November 2008, I am writing to inform you that I am now in a position to give you a substantive response to your enquiry for information on HMS Bristol.

The amount the MOD uses to fund the running costs of HMS Bristol is not held centrally and would require a specific costing exercise. Under the Freedom of Information Act we are not required to create the information to answer requests. However we are able to provide you with the approximate cost of running HMS Bristol, which for the year 2007-2008 was £1,469, 260.

In addition you enquired about the percentage use of the ship for the current year. This can be broken down as follows:

% time bunks utilised	Number of beds used
55.2	<100
22.4	100-200
15.7	200-300
6.2	300-400
0.6	>400

Note:

326 nights accommodation was utilised

There were a total of 44,500 bed nights used in 07/08 which equates to approximately 33% usage. However, if for example 6 underage females are occupying a 40 bed cabin then no-one other than underage girls can use this accommodation leaving 36 bunks empty.

In addition there were 203 differing courses on HMS Bristol in 2007/08 for 3904 students. This equates to 100% usage of the vessel for the 50 weeks of the year that Bristol is available.

If you are unhappy 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 Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-xx@xxx.xx). 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 unhappy 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 the case until the 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.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Heather Godfrey

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at x.xxxxxx@xxx.xx.xx or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.