



**Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2019/13025

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Mr M Spaven
[Request-621554-cd87baee@whatdotheyknow.com](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/621554-cd87baee)

17 December 2019

Dear Mr Spaven,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 November 2019 in which you requested the following information:

“Please provide me with a list of major faults suffered by HMS Queen Elizabeth since undergoing her sea trials until the present day.

Please give details of the fault and if and how it has been remedied.”

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However, it is considered that the information you require falls within the scope of the exemption at Section 26 (Defence) of the FOI Act. As S26(1)(b) is a qualified exemption, it has been necessary to decide whether, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The public interest test has now been completed and it has been concluded that, on balance, this information should be withheld in entirety.

Under s26(1)(b) information is exempt if its disclosure under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces.

Repair work on individual ships and their systems takes place during both planned maintenance and operational deployments. It is our policy to not disclose the readiness state of individual ships at any time as this would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

It is accepted that there is a public interest in the safety and effectiveness of our Armed Forces and the full release of information would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency. However, there is also a compelling interest in ensuring that information that could release details of the specific operational state of the Royal Navy's (RN) Fleet is not released into the public domain where it could be exploited by potential adversaries and put at risk the capability and effectiveness of our RN forces.

On balance, it is considered that the public interest lies in withholding this information, in the interests of maintaining the safety and/or effectiveness of our forces engaged in Defence activities.

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