



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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D/DOP/FOIA Requests (041/05)

Maria Francisco  
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23 September 2005

Thank you for your letter of 16 August, in which, under the Freedom of Information Act, you requested details of studies on the financial costs of the various options to replace or not replace Trident. You also requested copies of any such studies.

The Ministry of Defence, in reliance on the exemptions in s24(2), 26(3), 27(4), 35(3) and 43(3) of the Freedom of Information Act, neither confirms nor denies whether it holds the information you request. We have determined that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in confirming or denying that information is held. No further information is provided in relation to these exemptions, in reliance on s17(4) of the Act.

As the Government has made clear, no decisions on any replacement for Trident have yet been taken and whilst some are likely to be necessary in the current Parliament, they are still some way off. Indeed, as the Secretary of State for Defence said in the House of Commons on 7 July this year, "I have not even started to consider the position on it".

If you wish to clarify any aspect of this response then please contact me in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still 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 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.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

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