



**Gareth Rowlands**  
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Louise Edge  
Greenpeace UK

Our Reference:  
06-12-2010-111612-  
001

Date:  
20 December 2010

Via: info@uk.greenpeace.org

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Dear Ms Edge,

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Further to my email of 6 December, I am writing to provide you with a substantive response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking for estimated total value of contracts that would be placed during the Vanguard submarine replacement programme (the 'Successor' programme) 'Assessment Phase' period (2010/11-2015/16).

You also asked for a breakdown of:

- The estimated total value of contracts that would be placed in financial year 2011/12.
- The estimated total value of contracts that would be placed in financial year 2012/13.
- The estimated total value of contracts that would be placed in financial year 2013/14.
- The estimated total value of contracts that would be placed in financial year 2014/15.
- The estimated total value of contracts that would be placed in financial year 2015/16.

I can confirm that we hold information that is within the scope of your request. The information you have requested, however, is considered to fall under qualified exemption S35(1)(a) (Formulation of Government Policy) of the FOI Act. As a qualified exemption it is subject to the application of a balance of public interest test to determine whether the greater public interest lies in releasing or withholding the information. This has concluded that the information should be withheld.

The basis of this conclusion is that, although there is a public interest in there being transparent and open financial planning within the MOD, the release of information on the programme's spending plans, before those plans have been agreed at the Initial Gate decision point, would undermine the MOD's ability to develop plans that reflect changing circumstances. In addition, the plans are subject to change before Initial Gate, so the premature release of this information would undermine the MOD's ability to properly develop, review and approve its spending plans

You will be aware that the Government has committed to update Parliament on the Successor programme after it has passed Initial Gate, which is expected before the end of

this year. You may be interested to know that the report to Parliament is planned to include up to date cost information on the programme.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Rowland', written in a cursive style.