

## Nuclear Submarines

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W, to the hon. Member for Moray, on nuclear submarines, on what nuclear submarines the 21 medium scale fires were reported; what the location was of each such submarine at the time of the fire; and when each fire occurred. [290794]

**16 Sep 2009 : Column 2223W**

**Bill Rammell:** Royal Navy submarines are operated to the highest possible safety standards. Personnel are rigorously trained to deal efficiently and effectively with all safety incidents.

Three fires requiring both ship and external resources are recorded as occurring on Royal Navy submarines since 1 January 1987. Details of these are provided in the following table:

| <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Location where fire took place</i> | <i>Date of fire</i> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| HMS Renown    | Clyde                                 | 17 February 1992    |
| HMS Turbulent | Devonport                             | 30 April 1992       |
| HMS Trafalgar | Devonport                             | 24 October 2003     |

In the same time period, there were 20 medium scale fires and details of these are provided in the following table.

| <i>Vessel</i>  | <i>Location where fire took place, if known</i> | <i>Date of fire</i> |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| HMS Courageous | Alongside                                       | 10 December 1984    |
| HMS Sceptre    | Not recorded                                    | 29 July 1987        |
| HMS Conqueror  | Alongside                                       | 26 August 1987      |
| HMS Renown     | Not recorded                                    | 15 November 1987    |
| HMS Renown     | Clyde   | 10 October 1988     |
| HMS Valiant    | Clyde   | 5 August 1989       |
| HMS Valiant    | Alongside                                       | 22 December 1989    |
| HMS Trenchant  | At sea  | 21 November 1991    |
| HMS Superb     | At sea  | 3 November 1992     |
| HMS Tireless   | At sea  | 11 January 1993     |
| HMS Revenge    | At sea  | 29 July 1993        |
| HMS Tireless   | Alongside                                       | 22 October 1993     |
| HMS Sovereign  | Rosyth  | 7 April 1994        |
| HMS Sovereign  | Rosyth  | 22 August 1995      |

|                |           |                 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| HMS Victorious | Alongside | 16 October 1995 |
| HMS Talent     | Devonport | 18 January 1999 |
| HMS Sovereign  | Clyde     | 17 June 2001    |
| HMS Victorious | At sea    | 22 April 2002   |
| HMS Vigilant   | Clyde     | 11 October 2006 |
| HMS Tireless   | At sea    | 21 March 2007   |

For those incidents where the vessel was either 'alongside' or 'at sea', the exact location of the vessel is not recorded centrally.

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence, I have written to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) to correct the previous statement made on this subject—2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1400W.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reactor design has been selected by the Strategic Deterrent Programme Board for the successor submarine; what other decisions have been made by the Board in 2009; and what further decisions are scheduled to be made by the Board prior to May 2010. [291176]

**Bill Rammell** [*holding answer 14 September 2009*]: A decision on reactor design for the future deterrent has not yet been taken. Like other key decisions on the future deterrent, this decision will ultimately be taken by Ministers. The Defence Board will consider the work required during the Concept Phase later this year.

#### 16 Sep 2009 : Column 2224W

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the programme to build the successor to the Vanguard class submarine is on schedule; and when the initial gateway decision for the programme will be made. [291177]

**Bill Rammell** [*holding answer 14 September 2009*]: The In Service Date is planned for 2024, as set out in the 2006 White Paper. The Defence Board will consider the work required during the Concept Phase later this year.