

## **PUBLIC INTEREST TEST FOR RFI 238**

### **Information Requested**

Copies of presentations given at an industry briefing on the Future Nuclear Deterrent on 29 June 2007.

### **FOI Qualified Exemptions considered within the test**

s26 (Defence)  
s27 International Relations  
s35 Formulation of Government Policy

### **Reference used for this Public Interest Test**

Freedom of Information Act 2000

### **Information Reviewed**

- (1) Presentation – “Strategy for Delivery” by Andrew MacKinder, Team Leader of the Future Submarines Integrated Project Team
- (2) “Keynote address” by David Gould, Chief Operating Officer, DE&S
- (3) Presentation by Tom McKane, the then Director General (DG) Strategic Requirements
- (4) Presentation – “Challenges to Delivery” by Rear Admiral Mathews, DG Submarines
- (5) Presentation by Nick Bennett, DG Strategic Technology

### **S26 (Defence)**

Document (1) contains information on the potential future availability of certain facilities, which could read across to capability of the current Fleet. Document (3) contains detailed information on Deterrent Governance. This information could be of assistance to a potential enemy and release could prejudice the capability and security of the Armed Forces. The information in document (1) has been redacted in full, however, in document (3) broad detail has been provided as there is public interest in knowing that there is deterrent governance.

### **S27 (International Relations)**

Document (5) contains information on warhead research that was provided by the United States (US) under the proviso that it would only be used for training purposes or presentations of this nature. Although there is public interest in seeing such information, release of this information could damage UK/US relations and could also potentially cause the UK to lose access to further information from the US. This is not in the public interest and the information is therefore being withheld.

### **S35 (Formulation of Government Policy)**

Documents (1), (2), (3) and (4) all contain information on dates, actions and activities which are being used for planning purposes only at this stage. While the overall decision

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to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent has been made, detailed plans and dates have not yet been established nor approved by Ministers. Publication of such information could potentially restrict Ministerial ability to approve dates and proposals and the need to prevent any restrictions on Ministers outweighs the public interest in knowing such information.