

2 of 4  
DNO / 486 / BK64

Nuclear-Secretariat AH ( [REDACTED] )

DNO SECRETARIAT  
DNO SEC 1 / 004

**From:** SofS-DPS ( [REDACTED] )  
**Sent:** 09 October 2017 11:02  
**To:** DGNuc-SecretariatAH ( [REDACTED] )  
**Cc:** SofS-COS (Parmenter, Damian SCS); Min(DP)-APS2 ( [REDACTED] ); CDS-PSO (Mortimer, Ian Brig); PUS-PPS ( [REDACTED] ); VCDS-MA ( [REDACTED] ); NAVY-1SLONS GROUP (MULTIUSER); DG Sec Pol-Private Office (MULTIUSER); DSA-DG-MA ( [REDACTED] ); DES SM CSSE-MA-Desig (S-TRIBUNE); DSA-DNSR-Hd (Langbridge, David SCS); DDC-Director (VACANT); DGNuc-DG-Desig (Kelly, Julian SCS); DGNuc-ResPol-Director (Kett, Nicole SCS); DGNuc-Pol-Hd (Franklin, James SCS); DefenceSecretary-Group (MULTIUSER)  
**Subject:** RE: 20170925-Handling The 2015-16 DSA and DNSR Annual Assurance Reports ~~SUKEO~~  
~~LIMDIS~~

PLEASE TREAT AS OFFICIAL RESPONSE

~~SECRET UK EYES ONLY LIMITED DISTRIBUTION~~

4-2-4-4  
4-5-1-7

Thank you for your submission dated 25 Sep 17 regarding the 15-16 DSA and DNSR Annual Assurance Reports. Please note the direction in underline at the bottom of this email.

Secretary of State **noted** that:

- a. Both reports highlight a range of national security matters that relate to defence capability and international relations, and so their release should take account of Departmental direction on security-related considerations with respect to information disclosure;
- b. The current threat to the UK deterrent from Hostile State Actors, including Hostile Foreign Intelligence Services [REDACTED] means we need to tighten up our practice on release of information: even information which is arguably unclassified in isolation could help a potential adversary put together a more highly classified picture;
- c. The Department must ensure the independent nature and reporting of DSA and DNSR assessments is preserved, but managed within security-related considerations. Actions taken on the 2015-16 reports as a result of this submission will be emulated with the 2016-17 reports due to the current security context and to reduce any prominence associated to their publication being delayed.

And **decided** that

- d. In addition to the defence capability and international relations concerns surrounding disclosure of the information, in his reasonable opinion release would, or would be likely to inhibit the free and frank provision of advice, and / or otherwise prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs within the terms of the exemption at Section 36 of the FOI Act.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

SofS was satisfied that section 36 should apply as release would in his opinion inhibit the free and frank provision of advice, and would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

[REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** DGNuc-SecretariatAH ([REDACTED])  
**Sent:** 25 September 2017 18:37  
**To:** SofS-DPS ([REDACTED])  
**Cc:** SofS-COS (Parmenter, Damian SCS); Min(DP)-APS2 ([REDACTED]); CDS-PSO (Mortimer, Ian Brig); PUS-PPS ([REDACTED]); VCDS-MA ([REDACTED]); NAVY-1SLCNS GROUP (MULTIUSER); DG Sec Pol-Private Office (MULTIUSER); DSA-DG-MA ([REDACTED]); DES SM CSSE-MA-Desig (S-TRIBUNE); DSA-DNSR-Hd (Langbridge, David SCS); DDC-Director (VACANT); DGNuc-DG-Desig (Kelly, Julian SCS); DGNuc-ResPol-Director (Kett, Nicole SCS); DGNuc-Pol-Hd (Franklin, James SCS)  
**Subject:** 20170925-Handling The 2015-16 DSA and DNSR Annual Assurance Reports -SUKEO-LIMDIS-

[REDACTED]  
As notified at O-S level, please find attached a submission on the above.

[REDACTED]  
AH Secretariat, DG Nuclear  
MB6-H-18 [REDACTED]