

The Crown Estate Disclosure Log

Case no: 1117

Date received: 20 August 2019

Subject: Seabed Survey License Restrictions and Data

Request response

I am writing in response to your email of 20 August 2019, in which you asked questions about the use of seabed survey license (SSL). We have considered your enquiry in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In relation to your first question, I can confirm that there are no restrictions on issuing SSLs to foreign companies or UK-incorporated companies with foreign shareholders. However, there are certain criteria which we require all licensees to meet – for example, we will check the proposed activity locations in order to identify any potential conflicts with current seabed activity, as well as environmental designations as required by our statutory obligations.

You have also asked whether The Crown Estate holds data on the number of licenses issued to foreign companies and ships. I can confirm that we do hold this detail as part of our records on licensing requests that come to us via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

You can read more about the SSL process on our website [here](#).

I hope that this information is helpful. However, if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your information request, you may complain or appeal our decision, which will be investigated through an Internal Review. If you are not content with the outcome of the Internal Review, you have the right to refer your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision (contact details are available at: www.ico.org.uk). Please note that the ICO will usually expect you to have first exhausted our own complaints procedure before raising your concerns with them.