



Defence  
Safety Authority

# HMNB Devonport and Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator site report

1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Defence Nuclear  
Safety Regulator

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## 2. Foreword

This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Programme<sup>1</sup> available to the Authorisee, the wider Defence stakeholder community, and members of the Local Liaison Committee where these are convened. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is reasonably practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Programme. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators<sup>2</sup>.

Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited is both a Licensed Site and an Authorised site under MoD regulation. HMNB Devonport is an Authorised site under MoD regulation but it is not licensed. Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. DNSR Inspectors work closely with colleagues in ONR<sup>2</sup> (and other regulators); this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. This report is made available to members of the Local Liaison Committee where convened. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Local Liaison Committee meetings and will respond to any questions asked. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors are based at MoD offices in Bristol and can be contacted via email at [dsa-dnsr-enquiries@mod.gov.uk](mailto:dsa-dnsr-enquiries@mod.gov.uk).

## 3. Period of this report

This report covers the reporting period from 01<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

## 4. DNSR on site

4.1. DNSR staff were on site at DRDL and/or HMNB Devonport at the following times within this reporting period:

- July 11-14 & 25-28
- August 8-11 & 31<sup>st</sup>
- September 1<sup>st</sup>, 12-15 & 26-29
- October 10-13 & 24-27
- November 7-10 & 21-24
- December 5-8

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<sup>1</sup> Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

<sup>2</sup> The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

## 5. DNSR-Response to COVID-19

5.1. DNSR Devonport team have largely returned to pre-COVID site attendance levels and regulatory activity on site is not significantly impacted by any remaining COVID control measures either within DNSR or implemented by the sites.

5.2. The ability to conduct our business using remote means has been well developed throughout the pandemic and continues to be a valuable tool for regulatory engagements in certain circumstances.

## 6. Inspections of the site

6.1. Inspections were undertaken on the sites for the purpose of:

- To gain evidence that the Authorisee's safety management arrangements remain adequate and assurance that their implementation meets the DNSR Authorisation Conditions.
- To drive improved safety performance and behaviours identified in the DNSR Intervention Strategy for the Devonport site.
- To monitor the Authorisee's actions in response to incidents, operations, maintenance, modifications, inspection findings, regulatory enforcement, safety case changes and other matters that might affect safety.
- Arrangements made and implemented were considered adequate in the areas inspected or appropriate recovery improvement programmes are in place where gaps in compliance were identified. DNSR have continually monitored progress against previously raised issues and sought to influence closure within a suitable timeframe.

6.2. DRDL;

- DNSR have been engaged with DRDL, over a sustained period, in reviewing the developing arrangements and evidence to allow DNSR to permission the movement of HMS Vanguard out of dry dock.
- After an extensive review, DNSR granted permission for DRDL to safely move HMS Vanguard out of dry dock.
- DNSR and ONR assessed a planned Emergency exercise demonstration in October & Regulators concluded that whilst the exercise provided an adequate test of the emergency arrangements, the response did not fully constitute an adequate demonstration of their implementation. A further re-demonstration is planned in the very near future.
- DNSR continue to work with DRDL in preparing to grant permission for the next stage of HMS Vanguard commissioning work.

6.3. HMNB(D);

- DNSR carried out an Authorisation Condition 17 - Management Systems compliance inspection.
- The Devonport Site Emergency Exercise Assessment (joint with DRDL and HMNB(D)) is covered in section 6.2 above.
- The retired Submarines in 3 Basin continue to be monitored for any signs of degradation. No nuclear safety concerns have been identified.
- The site have now completed the remaining safety activity related to the 10 yearly periodic review of safety. This has been completed in the required timescale.
- Regulatory engagements on a wide range of areas of the site continue on a regular basis with monthly visits to the site taking place.

## 7. Non-routine matters

7.1. Authorisees are required to have arrangements to respond to un-planned matters and events, including actions to implement necessary improvements. DNSR reporting criteria and intervention thresholds are consistent with the ONR event reporting criteria and thresholds.

7.2. During this period, there were 2 DINF1 reported and addressed satisfactorily.

## 8. Permissioning and Enforcement Activity

8.1. DNSR have granted permission to DRDL to allow safe movement of HMS Vanguard out of dry dock.

8.2. During this period, DNSR raised no Corrective Action Requirements (CARs) and 3 Recommendations with no Improvement Notices. DNSR will monitor progress against previous CARs and Recommendations through monthly engagement on Site.

## 9. Contact

This document is issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). If you have any questions on the above report or require further information, please contact DNSR at [dsa-dnsr-enquiries@mod.gov.uk](mailto:dsa-dnsr-enquiries@mod.gov.uk).