

COMMERCIAL - IN CONFIDENCE

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon George Younger TD DL MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

21 April 1988

Dear George,

attached

Thank you for your letter of 20 April advising me of the result of the tender competition for the 2 powered mooring lighters and range mooring vessel.

As you anticipate, I am disappointed that no Scottish yard has been successful in this competition. One point of concern for the future is that we should not adopt a tendering policy that inevitably disadvantages the small yards without a major backer and which are therefore less able to compete on the basis of a single payment on completion. In this case however I understand that the differences in tender prices are such that your proposed division of the order between Richards and McTay Marine offers a very significant saving to the taxpayer. I have therefore no objection for my interest to the announcement being made on Monday as you propose.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Lord Young, John Major, John Wakeham and to Sir Robin Butler.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Malcolm Rifkind".

MALCOLM RIFKIND

