

Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE ADC



Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Section K  
Main Building  
Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB  
Telephone: 020 7218 6193  
Fax: 020 7218 4702

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Mr B Roynon  
Chief Executive  
Southampton City Council  
Civic Centre  
Southampton  
SO14 7LP



18 June 2010

*Dear Mr Roynon,*

#### **AFFILIATION BETWEEN SOUTHAMPTON AND HMS ARTFUL**

The Royal Navy values greatly the close interest and support afforded to affiliated ships and submarines, and I am cognisant that there has been a long and proud history between Southampton and a front line warship. It is in that regard that I write to you.

I attach great importance to civic relationships and propose for your consideration the formal affiliation of one of our ASTUTE Class submarines, HMS ARTFUL. This submarine is currently in the process of being built at Barrow-in-Furness. HMS ARTFUL is the third of her class and is due to commission in 2015, with an anticipated service life of approximately 25 years. This will therefore provide plenty of opportunity to establish a strong and enduring relationship with Southampton building upon the strong ties with the Royal Navy that already exist. This can be developed as she is being built and the first of her dedicated crew are expected to join her at the end of this year.

Should Southampton City Council choose to embrace this affiliation, I would very much like to make a formal announcement, either myself or an appropriate representative, at a suitable civic gathering or other formal occasion to mark not just the establishment of the new affiliation but the continued relationship with the Royal Navy. I would be grateful for your views in due course, please.

Should you wish further information I would be delighted to so provide, or alternatively my Naval Regional Commander, Commodore Tim Hennessey, is well placed to assist; I am aware that he is well known to you.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Mark Stanhope*