

Hi Ole,

Thank you for your list of questions below. After consideration, I have no comments to make on any of the points you raised. As such, I consider the matter to be closed.

As discussed, due to the distress caused, I would be grateful if you would not call at my house again or contact me for follow up. Thank you.

I remember you stated you wished to do no harm, and I trust that remains the case.

All the best

From: Ole Fostad <ole.fostad@gordium.no>

Sent: 27 September 2025 17:16

To: *****@btinternet.com

Subject: Re: Questions for consideration

Hi John,

Unfortunately, I did not notice your message on Saturday morning. I will of course send you the questions, and I hope you will consider answering. From what you said, I would think that you will prefer to answer by phone and I hope that we can schedule a brief conversation.

The source of my questions are the three episodes of the "Shadow War" series[1] and the NRK-article "The Spy Ships".[2]

Q 1: In the "spy ships"-article it is stated that you were contacted, and photos of the radios onboard the Russian trawlers "Ester" and "Lira" were sent to you for review in November 2022.[3]

- Who sent you the pictures of the old Soviet radios?

Q 2: You were obviously a source of information for the Nordic broadcasters, DR and NRK. However, it seems like you also were a source for the Norwegian intelligence service, PST, regarding the old Soviet radios aboard the trawlers. The relation between the broadcaster, NRK, and the intelligence service, PST, is interesting.

- Can you elaborate a bit on how you became a source for the broadcasters and the intelligence service, like how was contact initially established and who mediated the contact?

- And who introduced you as a source to the journalists in the Nordic broadcasters, NRK/DR?

Q 3: According to the article, you stated that the radios were both receivers and transmitters. It is not clear from the reporting if you stated that the radios were military or if this information came from elsewhere. The reason for this question is that when I put the image of the radio into yandex, it turned out to be a radio receiver made for the Soviet fishing fleet.[4]

- Why did you think it was a transmitter as well as a receiver, and what made you say that the radio was military?

Q 4: The regional chief of the Norwegian intelligence service, Johan Roaldsnes, used the information you provided about the radios in his statements in the article. He said the discovery of these devices increased the suspicion of espionage being carried out from ordinary fishing vessels.

- Why do you think Roaldsnes trusted the information you provided, what made you trustworthy in his eyes?

Q 5: At the time you started your engagement with the Norwegian intelligence service and the Nordic broadcasters, you were writing the blog "The Auxillary Shipping Forecast". The blog was used as a source by

several media outlets. E.g. The Barents Observer had published several articles based on your blog, and you were invited as a guest by H.I. Sutton in Twitter Space. It appears like you missed an opportunity for your blog by being anonymous in the "Shadow war"-series, and the possible downside for you by stepping forward appears to have been rather small. You were retired and did not have to worry about losing your job.

- Why did you choose to delete your blog, the Twitter user and appear anonymously in the "Shadow War"-series? Why not use the opportunity for exposure to promote your blog and appear as a source in the series like your colleague H.I. Sutton did?

Q 6: In your blog you remarked that the voyage of the Admiral Vladimirske could be strategic communication, and you speculated that the vessel could be keeping an eye on the aircraft carrier H.M.S Queen Elizabeth. In the "Shadow War"-series, you only saw one possibility, that the vessel was mapping the seven wind-farms as future sabotage targets. Initially I actually dismissed the author of "The Auxillary Shipping Forecast"-blog as being "James" because of the much more nuanced deliberations.

- What made you drop the deliberations you had in the blog about possible alternative motivations for the vessels voyage?

Q 7: The vessel reported its position with unencrypted communication during its North Sea round trip. You also informed us in the series that if the Russians vessels were up to something they encrypted their communication. It is hard to understand why the vessel would advertise its whereabouts during such a sinister operation.

- Why do you think the vessel openly transmitted its position when preparing for sabotage, what gain would that provide in order to be able to succeed in their sabotage endeavor when other options were available?

Q 8: Both the Dutch and Belgian authorities reported on the Admiral Vladimirske in February 2023, saying they believed the vessel attempted to survey wind farms in preparation of sabotage. Neither of them would reveal the name of the vessel at that time though, they said they wanted to coordinate efforts with other Nord Sea countries. But when the "Shadow War" series was published, the Danish broadcaster reported that a central intelligence source confirmed that the vessel the Dutch and Belgians referred to was the Admiral Vladimirske. Moreover, the reporting from the intelligence services was remarkably similar to yours in the series. Close agreement in assessment of such a complex situation as the Admiral Vladimirske voyage is a rather strong indication of single sourced information.

- Did you share information with any intelligence service or any of their affiliates, British or foreign, that could explain this somewhat surprising agreement in assessment? Perhaps without you realizing it?

Q 9: In the first episode of the series you presented yourself as a retired Royal Navy communications officer. This is also what you state in your social media postings, you retired from the Royal Navy as a WO1. In the following episodes in the series you presented yourself as an intelligence officer.

- Why did you change the presentation of your professional achievements during the series? Were you encouraged by someone? If so, by whom?

Q 10: During your visit at KSAT in Tromsø in February 2023, you were able to match the positions from the weather reports you received from the Sibirjakov with satellite images from KSAT. In my view that means that the Sibirjakov did not attempt to misdirect or deceive with its reporting.

- Why would the Sibirjakov openly transmit its position during its Nord Stream sabotage mission? Would it not be more likely that the reported positions and the satellite observations did not match if the vessel was on a sabotage mission?

It would be very interesting to hear your take on these issues!

Looking forward to hearing from you, it would be great if you can revert with a time that would be convenient for

you for a call!

- [1]: <<https://tv.nrk.no/serie/brennpunkt-skyggekrigen>>
- [2]: <<https://www.nrk.no/nordland/xl/fiskebater-og-andre-fartoy-fra-russland-kan-drive-spionasje-og-etterretning-i-norge-1.16371100>>
- [3]: <<https://gfx.nrk.no/th4R4GDe-khJcOIlk8RJkAT86xKYO6DTcOe3JBKU6tAA>>
- [4]: <<https://museum.radioscanner.ru/cikloida/cikloida.html>>

Kind Regards

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Den 26.09.2025 08:48, skrev *****@btinternet.com:

Good morning, Ole,

Further to our conversation yesterday, I would be grateful if you could send your questions via email.
As this was an option you offered initially, I trust this isn't a problem.
Many thanks in advance.