



Ministry
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2014/04422

[REDACTED]

10 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 18 August 2014 asking for information about near misses or 'airprox' incidents.

You requested the following information:

I would like to know the number of near misses, or 'airprox' incidents, involving aircraft based at RAF Boulmer there have been in from January 2011 to date.

I would like the information to be provided on a month by month with a break down of each incident including the aircraft involved, a brief summary of circumstances and details of any action taken as a result.

As you are aware from my letter dated 19 August, I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

I attach the relevant Defence Air Safety Occurrence Report for the one incident involving aircraft based at RAF Boulmer since January 2011. The names of the individuals within the report have been redacted under Section 40(2) of the FOIA. This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (advice and assistance), I can inform you that this particular incident took place on 26 March 2014. To summarise, a Sea King crew were conducting a Search and Rescue operation in the Lake District when the pilot saw a paraglider and took avoiding action. The recommendation following this incident was that the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association considers producing a catalogue of paraglider launch sites, including usage under given wind conditions. The report of the incident will be

published on the airprox board website in due course, details of which can be found at the following link: <http://www.airproxboard.org.uk/>.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.