



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
DE&S Lightning PT Sec

Defence Equipment and Support
Maple 0a #2043
MOD Abbey Wood South
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: DESec-FOI@mod.uk

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
FOI2015/00093

Date: 2 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated 5th January 2015 requesting, in relation to the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Programme, the following information:

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 how much Britain has spent to date (January 5, 2015) on the F35 joint striker fighter (Lightning II) programme
- When are the earliest and latest possible introduction-to-service dates.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information that can be released is detailed below.

The earliest possible Introduction-to-service date for the UK F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is October 2018. The scheduled latest Introduction-to-service date for the UK F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is April 2019.

Some information held by the Department falling within the scope of your request is exempt from release under sections 22(1) of the freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 22 has been applied to some of the information you requested because it is information that is intended for future publication. The information requested will be released as part of the National Audit Office (NAO) Major Projects Report (MPR) 2015 which is anticipated to be published early in 2016. MPR 2015 will provide details of sunk costs, approvals and forecast spend for the Lightning II Programme for Financial Year 2014/2015, and this information will have been independently audited prior to release. As such, the balance of public interest lies in favour of

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withholding the information given that it will be released at a future date, following an independent audit, to ensure that the most accurate information is released into the public domain.

For this reason, the balance of public interest lies in withholding the information and I have set the level of prejudice against disclosure of the information at the lower level of 'would be likely to'.

The National Audit Office (NAO) Major Projects Report (MPR) 2014 was released early in January and contains details of Lightning II sunk costs, approvals and forecast information for FY2013/2014 and is available from the NAO website.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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.org.uk>.

Yours Sincerely,


DE&S Lightning PT Secretariat
