



# Ministry of Defence

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

**Our Ref: FOI2015/05351**

25 June 2015

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 9 June clarifying your request for information about RAF squadrons and aircraft.

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

After an initial search of our records I can confirm information within scope of your request is held.

I have enclosed information on the location and names of RAF Squadrons'; the number of RAF personnel; picture and information on fixed wing aircraft (excluding rotary wing and gliders as you have stated that one type of aircraft is acceptable); and where RAF Aircraft are based.

You have also asked for an explanation as to why the Royal Navy and RAF Search and Rescue Sea Kings are different colours. The RAF helicopters are painted in a bright yellow colour scheme to aid visibility, likewise the red on the RN red and grey helicopters. Both aircraft are therefore painted in colours to make them stand out from the background, especially at dawn and dusk when light levels are low. This also has the benefit of making it easier for rescuers assisting on the ground to see the aircraft and make them more visible for other aviators in the area.

I am unable to provide the cost of individual aircraft types as this information is not held. Costs of aircraft are included in the wider costs of the whole programme of procuring a particular aircraft fleet. This includes things like initial research and development, manufacture, delivery, storage, maintenance costs, etc. For an aircraft that has been in service for years the costs will be spread over the whole life of the aircraft procurement programme so it would not be possible to break it down in the way you have requested.

You are free to use the pictures enclosed for your own personal, private purpose outlined as exceptions to infringement under the Copyright Designs and patent Acts but they should not be reproduced.

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

Air Secretariat  
Air Command