



Ministry of Defence

[REDACTED]
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND
Air Command Secretariat

Spitfire Block
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

E-mail [REDACTED]

Our Ref: 2015/03655

16 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 April requesting the following information:

- "1. How many times have planes been scrambled to intercept unidentified flying objects in the past ten years?*
- 2. In each, what was found?"*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

We have no record of UK military aircraft being scrambled in the past 10 years against unidentified flying objects.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to understand the RAF's air defence capability in relation to UK airspace. Its role is purely to detect and deter aircraft approaching or in UK airspace which are not complying with international air traffic control requirements. Over the last 10 years, we have launched Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft on numerous occasions in response to Russian military aircraft that approached or entered the NATO Air Policing Area for which the UK has responsibility. Additionally, we have launched against civil aircraft in the UK civil air traffic region that are causing concern to air traffic control authorities.

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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



Air DRes Sec 3b1