



Ministry
of Defence

HQ Air Command

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13 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 December 2014 requesting the following information pertaining to the hailstorm that occurred at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on 23 April 2013:

- *The aircraft types that were damaged (C-130J, etc).*
- *The numbers of each aircraft type damaged.*
- *The extent of the damage (Category 3, etc) to each of the aircraft.*
- *The total cost of the damage caused to UK aircraft (fixed-winged, rotary-winged, unmanned).*
- *If all the damaged aircraft have been returned to service.*
- *What non-UK aircraft were damaged in the incident?*

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 (MoD), and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested which is held by the MoD is as follows:

Fixed wing aircraft

- Five C130J Hercules aircraft were damaged. The extent of the damage was a mixture of Categories 3 and 4. All five aircraft have now returned to service. The total cost of repairing the damaged C130J aircraft is £9.1M.
- One BAE 125 and one BAE 146 were damaged. The total cost of damage to the aircraft was £1.736M. An additional £1.37M was also incurred for routine maintenance that had to be contracted out as a result of the recovery and repairing of the damaged aircraft. The BAE 125 aircraft was assessed as Category 4 and was assessed as beyond economic repair. The BAE 146 aircraft was assessed as Category 3 and has returned to service.

Rotary wing aircraft

- Three Chinook helicopters, one Lynx Mk9a and one Sea King Mk4 were damaged but not substantially enough to be categorised all were returned to service. However, the Sea King Mk4 has subsequently retired.

- The total cost of the damage to all five UK rotary aircraft is £386.5K.

Data on non UK aircraft is not available and would be a matter for the individual countries concerned. No Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS) were damaged in the incident.

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-DRes Sec 3b
HQ Air Command