



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2016/11091

[REDACTED]

8 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2016 asking about a possible launch by RAF Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft. You requested the following information:

"On Wednesday (16/11/16) night at around 20:15 was there a QRA scramble from Lossiemouth with Voyager tanker support from Brize Norton. Any information on this would be greatly appreciated. I believe it was Russian bombers again, if this is correct would it be at all possible to know what the types of Russian aircraft they were that entered the British area of interest?"

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

On 16 November 2016 Typhoon QRA aircraft from RAF Lossiemouth launched for Russian Bear and Midas aircraft in the UK area of interest. The RAF regularly intercepts, identifies and escorts Russian aircraft within the UK area of interest contributing to flight safety assurance. At no time have Russian military aircraft crossed unauthorised into UK sovereign airspace.

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, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Secretariat 3a1
Air Command