



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. 2015/11763

[REDACTED]

13 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 December 2015 asking for information about aircraft movements at RAF Northolt.

You requested the following information:

".....the reason and/or necessity of some specific aircraft movements into and out of RAF Northolt in November and also pertinently what the costs to the taxpayer were for the same.

The specific movement was a Typhoon ZK304FM arriving at 11:42 Friday 20th November and departing 14:07 Monday 23rd November. I understand that it is not usual in ordinary circumstances for such a plane to be at Northolt? However it luckily coincided with David Cameron, the PM, making a statement on camera about the SDR with it in the background.

Was it also an unusual movement for a Sentinel to depart at 13:50?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held.

The Typhoon and Sentinel deployed to RAF Northolt as part of an event to launch the Strategic Defence and Security Review, which was announced by the Prime Minister and published on 23 November. The purpose was to highlight some of the major equipment capabilities invested in following the Review.

The RAF does not hold records for the costs of individual Typhoon sorties. However, under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that the Typhoon landed at RAF Northolt following a routine training exercise and that there is considerable training benefit for RAF pilots to deploy aircraft to relatively unfamiliar airbases, particularly those in the vicinity of London where air traffic control procedures and restrictions are considerably more complex than the rest of the UK. Typhoon aircraft have operated out of RAF Northolt in the past, notably for the 2012 Olympics and may be required to do so

again, so the experience gained by the pilot would prove useful should they need to deploy for operational reasons.

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,


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