



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2015/10982

[Redacted]

4 January 2016

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your e-mail of 1 December 2015 asking for information about aircraft availability.

You requested the following information:

As of this date [1 December 2015], how many, FULLY operational fighter aircraft and of what type are available for expeditionary actions, how many are in reserve and how many are broken beyond repair/grounded.

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 information within the scope of your request is held which is given in the table below:

Aircraft Type	Forward Fleet	Forward Fleet Availability	Sustainment Fleet	Aircraft Damaged Beyond Repair
Typhoon	92	50	38	1
Tornado	50	37	37	2

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that the RAF's two main combat aircraft are the Typhoon and Tornado. Aircraft required for the defence of UK airspace or operations abroad are drawn from the Forward Fleet which is comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those that are short term unserviceable aircraft. Typically these short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or other unforeseen rectification or inspection work that can arise on a day to day basis at a flying squadron.

The sustainment fleet comprises those aircraft currently undergoing planned deep maintenance or upgrade programmes. It also includes aircraft held in temporary storage (eg to manage airframe flying hours) but excludes those which have been made redundant, declared surplus or are awaiting decommissioning or disposal.

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 3a1