



Ministry of Defence

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

Reference: FOI2015/08422

[REDACTED]

2 Oct 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 September requesting the following information:

I'm looking for some stats for a small 'box' in the article on low flying hours across Great Britain, ideally year on year over the last 5 years to show how/if they have gone up or down.

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

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Unfortunately, due to a change in the low flying booking software, we have experienced some issues with collating accurate low flying statistical information for FY13/14 and FY14/15. This issue does not affect the careful planning of low flying or aircraft booking into the system, it only affects the subsequent statistical collation. Although extensive efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the statistics this has not proved possible. Consequently, it has been decided that low flying statistics will not be published for FY13/14 and FY14/15. The statistical issues have been resolved for FY15/16 data and we are planning to resume the release of low flying statistics starting from those for FY15/16 which we plan to release in 2016.

Low flying statistical information for FY10/11, 11/12 and 12/13 held by the Department which falls within scope of your request is exempt from release under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (information accessible to applicant by other means) as it is available on the internet. This information has therefore been withheld. Section 21 of the Act is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act the Department is required to provide advice and assistance and so I have provided below the internet links for low flying statistics for FY10/11, 11/12 and 12/13 referred to above:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/27454/POML_FAppendix20102011.pdf

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2013-0280/LowFlying-Appendix-2011-2012.pdf>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345172/2014_0508-military-low-flying-Stats Annex 2012-13 Revised Final-U 2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/345172/2014_0508-military-low-flying-Stats_Annex_2012-13_Revised_Final-U_2.pdf)

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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat