



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2016/4912

[REDACTED]

2 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 May 2016 asking about sonic booms since January 2013. You requested the following information:

- "1) How many sonic booms have been recorded and or reported and acknowledged as sonic booms by the MoD in the UK in the years from January 2013 to May 4, 2016. In each case please say when they took place and above which county or counties and specifically above which towns or cities.*
- 2) How many reports of damage as a result of sonic booms have been received by the MoD in the UK in this period? In each case please detail the damage reported, where and when it occurred.*
- 3) How many claims for compensation have been lodged with the MoD regarding damage caused by sonic booms during this period, including up to the date of your response?*
- 4) How much as the MoD paid in compensation for damage caused by sonic booms in this period, including up to the date of your response.*
- 5) How many reports of damage have been received as a result of the sonic booms on Monday, 2 May, 2016. In each case please detail the damage reported, where and when it occurred. How many claims for compensation have been lodged with the MoD in relation to those particular sonic booms."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am writing to tell you that the MOD holds some information on the subject you have requested.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may wish to note that although we can identify when an aircraft has been authorised to go supersonic, the nature of sonic waves means the aircrew would not necessarily know if they had created a shock wave,

which in turn would create an audible sonic boom on the ground in any part of the UK mainland. Additionally, the aircrew may receive authorisation to go supersonic but not actually use that option. The MOD does not necessarily record sonic booms although it does receive reports from the public who had experienced them and subsequently reported this back to authorities.

We do hold some information on sonic incidents reported in the UK by persons on the ground to the RAF Police, which following investigation are likely to have been the result of RAF aircraft undertaking supersonic flight. These are given in the table below.

Date	Location
17 April 2013	Attleborough, Norfolk
10 October 2013	Lampeter, Ceredigion
10 March 2014	Aberystwth, Ceredigion
14 April 2014	Filby, Norfolk
5 June 2014	Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
6 November 2014	Shouldham, Norfolk
17 November 2014	Bempton, East Yorkshire
2 May 2016	Leeds, Doncaster, Yorkshire

Details of compensation claims made to the MOD claiming compensation as a consequence of a sonic boom are provided in the table at Annex A.

Again under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may also wish to note that military flying training rules do not routinely permit supersonic flight overland in the UK unless there is an operational priority. During training, planned supersonic flight is completed over sea at a range to minimise the possibility of disturbance, although these may still occasionally be heard in coastal areas.

Recent reports of supersonic flight overland have been caused by RAF Quick Reaction Alert Typhoon aircraft who have been on Air Defence missions authorised to transit at supersonic speed for operational reasons. Any inconvenience caused to the public is regretted but this must be balanced against the need to maintain national security in an unpredictable and dangerous world.

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,



Air DRes Sec 3a1

Annex to FOI 2016/04912

Incident Date	Incident Location	Claim Details	Paid
16 June 2013	Essex	Cracked patio doors	0.00
16 June 2013	Hertfordshire	Roof tiles dislodged	0.00
16 June 2013	Cambridgeshire	Cracked car window	0.00
10 March 2014	Anglesey	Cracked greenhouse glass	0.00
10 March 2014	Anglesey	Cracked windows	£1207.46
05 June 2014	Cambridgeshire	Damaged patio doors and chandelier	£780.00
05 June 2014	Lincolnshire	Roof tiles dislodged	£275.00
05 June 2014	Cambridgeshire	Cracked window	£174.00
05 June 2014	Cambridgeshire	Startled by noise - car accident	£500.00
05 June 2014	Cambridgeshire	Damaged garden furniture	0.00
05 June 2014	Cambridgeshire	Cracked window	0.00
06 November 2014	Norfolk	Cracked window	0.00
02 May 2016	South Yorkshire	Damage to window	£89.00
02 May 2016	North Yorkshire	Roof tile dislodged	Withdrawn
02 May 2016	West Yorkshire	Cracked ceiling plaster	Awaiting claimant reply
02 May 2016	West Yorkshire	Damage to roof	Awaiting claimant reply
02 May 2016	North Yorkshire	Fish tank cracked	On-going
02 May 2016	South Yorkshire	Damage to window	£162.00
02 May 2016	South Yorkshire	Damage to window	Awaiting claimant reply
02 May 2016	South Yorkshire	Cracked ceiling	Awaiting claimant reply
02 May 2016	South Yorkshire	Roof tiles dislodged	Awaiting claimant reply
02 May 2016	West Yorkshire	Damage to door window	£388.80
02 May 2016	South Yorkshire	Damage to window	Awaiting claimant reply
			£3576.26