



Ministry  
of Defence

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27 September 2016

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 August 2016 in which you requested the following information:

- 1) How many of each variant of tank based on the Challenger 2 chassis were originally ordered and received by the British Army.
- 2) How many of each variant are:
  - a. Still possessed by the British Army, including those that are not deployable;
  - b. Available for deployment – total number of tanks either in active service or held in a state of extended readiness;
  - c. Used solely for training.
- 3) Are there any plans to dispose of any tanks, and if so, how many of each variant.

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

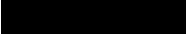
A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is as follows:

1. 386 Challenger 2 tanks and 22 Driver Training tanks based on the Challenger 2 chassis were originally ordered and received by the British Army.
2. 227 Challenger 2 tanks and the 22 Driver Training Tanks remain in service with the British Army. All of the Challenger 2 Tanks would be available for operational use if required. However it may help if I explain that the Army manages its vehicle fleets under the current fleet management model. The Army uses a four element approach; the first element of this model provides a limited number of permanently issued equipment for low-level training and competency, the second provides a training fleet to enable units to train together, (this includes permanently issued equipment to training areas such as the British Army Training Unit Suffield, in Canada), the third element provides equipment for deployment and contingent operations, and the fourth acts as a buffer, which enables the Army to sustain the first three elements as equipment enters deep maintenance, or is damaged beyond repair.
3. 72 Challenger 2 Tanks are currently awaiting final disposal action, for clarity these are not part of the 227 currently in use by the Army.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

  
Army Secretariat