



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

[REDACTED]
DE&S Lightning PT Chief of Staff

Defence Equipment and Support
MoD Abbeywood South
Bristol
BS34 8JH



Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
Lightning/Secretariat/
FOI2015/02385
Date: 23 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Your email dated 1st March 2015 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

- All documents relating to the design and purchase of the F-35B fighter jets; and
- Any correspondences with Lockheed Martin or the US military over the design and purchase.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request. However, there is a substantial amount of information relating to design and purchase of F-35B fighter jets, and to locate, retrieve and extract the totality of the information requested would exceed the appropriate limit.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. It is estimated that to provide the information requested would cost in excess of £22,000.

Section 16 of the FOIA requires a public authority to provide advice and assistance, as far as it is reasonably able to do so. Details of approvals and spend for the UK F-35 programme, including details of Lightning II sunk costs, approvals and forecast information for FY2013/2014, can be found in the Major Projects Report 2014 at the link: <http://www.nao.org.uk/report/major-projects-report-2014-and-the-equipment-plan-2014-to-2024/>. Should you wish further information, you may wish to consider refining your request to singular questions, for which factual answers may be provided, or focus on one aspect of the Programme.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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

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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


DE&S Lightning PT Chief of Staff
