



Ministry  
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Ref: FOI2014/08296

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

21 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 15 December 2014 requesting information about the suspending of flight operations of the Air Cadet Gliding Fleet.

You have asked the following:

*Air Cadet Organisation: Suspension of gliding / grounding of the gliding fleet.*

- *What has been the cause of the grounding/suspension of flight operations of the Air Cadet Gliding fleet? (Vikings and Vigilants)?*
- *What steps is the MoD/Air Cadet organisation taking to rectify the situation?*
- *Will all aircraft be returned to flight-worthy condition?*
- *Will there be an inquiry into the grounding of the fleet/suspension of flying operations?*
- *What steps are being made to ensure this does not happen again?*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

It may be helpful to know that Section 1 of the FOIA gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held.

Duty Holder Advice Note 86 contains information within the scope of your request and is attached. Section 40 of the FOIA Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an

absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 16 of the FOIA requires the department to help and assist where possible so it may be useful to explain that the Duty Holding construct ensures that a full review of the current precautionary pause is undertaken at senior levels, also that the creation of the glider Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation will be undertaking continual review to ensure this does not happen again.

Continuing Airworthiness is defined as all of the processes ensuring that, at any time in its operating life, an air system complies with the airworthiness requirements in force and is in a condition for safe operation. MAA Regulatory Article 1016 details the roles and responsibilities for Continuing Airworthiness. [http://www.maa.mod.uk/linkedfiles/regulation/1000\\_series/ra1016.pdf](http://www.maa.mod.uk/linkedfiles/regulation/1000_series/ra1016.pdf)

We are undertaking an Airworthiness Recovery Package for each airframe which is focusing on a full survey of the airframe against the maintenance documentation, to ensure correct configuration control of the documentation and the rework of any engineering tasks that are not fully represented in the maintenance documentation.

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, 1<sup>st</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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



Air-DRes Sec 3b  
HQ Air Command