



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2016/3533

[REDACTED]

12 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 March 2016 asking for information about the Typhoon between 2013 and 2015.

You requested the following information:

"...how many RAF Typhoon aircraft were grounded between 2013 and 2015. I would like to know the names of the squadrons affected."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). After a search of our records I can confirm that information is held within the scope of your request.

Modern combat aircraft such as the RAF Typhoon are highly complex pieces of machinery that require considerable work to maintain them in a safe flying condition. Individual aircraft may be temporarily unable to fly due to minor works, forward maintenance or other unforeseen rectification or inspection work that can arise on a day to day basis on a flying squadron. Likewise squadrons may not undertake flying activities due to routine events such as Station Training or Engineering days, but the Typhoon fleet as a whole has not been temporarily paused from flying due to issues with the aircraft.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may wish to note that the RAF uses the term "*temporarily paused from flying*" rather than the word "*grounded*". Additionally, figures for Typhoon availability were provided in a response to a previous FOI request earlier this year which can be accessed on the Government website through the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-4-january-2016>

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,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Air DRes Sec 3a1