



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref. 2017/5943

[REDACTED]

19 July 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 20 June 2017 asking for information about the cockpit sections for two F4 Phantom jets. You requested the following information

*"I am looking for information about two McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom cockpit sections which were preserved in Scotland. I would like to know where they are now and, of they have been disposed of, where to and by what means?"*

*Both aircraft had previously been preserved as gate guardians at different locations in Scotland. They were later scrapped with their cockpit sections saved. Each was for a time preserved by branches of the Air Training Corps. The cockpit sections in question are:*

*Phantom FG.1 XV581. This aircraft's cockpit was last known to be in the possession of 2489 Sqn ATC at Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire (within Gordon Barracks).*

*Phantom FGR.2 XV467. This aircraft's cockpit was in the possession of 2521 Sqn ATC at Oban. However, it was later removed by the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) on (as I understand it) health and safety grounds.*

*I would like to know what became of these two cockpit sections. I would like to know whether or not they still exist, their whereabouts, and - if disposed of/scrapped - to whom?"*

I am treating your correspondence as requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held.

I can confirm that the Air Cadets Stafford Wing Aerospace Centre at MOD Stafford holds a cockpit section from 2489 Sqn ATC believed to be for Phantom XV581. However, I have been unable to locate the cockpit for XV467 or find details of its disposal. Neither 2521 ATC Squadron or HQ Air Cadets have a record of the cockpit.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note once an aircraft completes its useful flying life, it is de-registered from the military aircraft register

and is no longer supported by the relevant project team. Some former airframes or parts of airframes are retained as training aids or as gate guardians by units across Defence. However, these are then considered as inventory items with the unit concerned. There is no requirement to continue to record the previous aircraft registration of that inventory item, albeit sometimes this remains painted on the aircraft or parts thereof.

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, 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



Secretariat 3a1  
Air Command