



Ministry
of Defence

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7 April 2017

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 20 March in which you requested the following information:

"- Can you tell me when RAF Wessex and Puma helicopters, and Army Air Corps Lynx helicopters, began to routinely carry a door gunner equipped with a GPMG (General Purpose Machine Gun) in Northern Ireland during Operation Banner?"

- Also, can you tell me what was the nature of Operation Attainment? I understand it was connected to the arming of transport helicopters with a GPMG door gun in Northern Ireland."

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

Op ATTAINMENT referred to potential counter-measures to the Provisional IRA threat to aircraft in Northern Ireland. One of these was the arming of helicopters. The arming of the helicopters named above with the General Purpose Machine Gun was routinely used by March 1990. By their nature, all three helicopters types might be referred to as support helicopters and used as 'transport helicopters'.

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, Ground 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Disclosure and Litigation Leader