



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/09911

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 0000 0000

E-mail: DJEP-CLCP-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 October requesting the following information:

*On 4 October at about 08:35 BST there was a sonic boom over Suffolk/south Norfolk caused by Typhoon aircraft. I would like information on whether or not there have been any compensation claims to the MOD for any damage caused by the sonic boom?*

You also asked:

*If so, how many claims were there?*

*How much has been paid out by the MOD to settle the claims?*

*Where did the claims come from in terms of geographical area? – ie, towns, villages, cities, hamlets.*

*What were the claims for? – ie walls, farm machinery, light fittings, windows.*

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 no compensation claims have been received from any person in Suffolk/South Norfolk arising from the sonic incident on 4 October 2017.

It should be noted that military flying training rules do not routinely permit supersonic flight overland in the UK unless there is an operational priority. On this occasion, the sonic boom was caused by RAF Quick Reaction Alert Typhoon aircraft on an Air Defence mission authorised to transit at supersonic speed for operational reasons. Any inconvenience caused to the public is regretted but this must be balanced against the need to maintain national security in an unpredictable and dangerous world.

The MOD takes the issue of safe low flying extremely seriously and understands that military low flying can be noisy and unpopular but is an essential part of operational training. The MOD is constantly striving to ensure that such disturbance is kept to an absolute minimum and that the burden of noise pollution is as evenly distributed as possible throughout the UK Low Flying System as a whole. In order to ensure that military low flying is as accountable to the public as possible the MOD provides the Low Flying Complaints Enquiry Unit, located at RAF Wittering, which allows the public to report low flying incidents which have raised concern.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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](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 normally 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

For DJEP Common Law Claims & Policy