



Ministry
of Defence



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[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 4 September 2017. You asked:

Can you please explain to me what the current process is for the disposal of MOD aircraft? I appreciate that the public tender system once used has largely gone, but is still used in some cases? Then other assets go direct to places such as Everett Aero, Witham Specialist Vehicles and Air Ground to name a few. Some aircraft such as the Wessex from Little Rossington (XR528) seem have made their way direct into museums / private collections in recent weeks.

I am treating your email as a request for information in accordance with 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 in scope of your request is held.

It might be helpful if I first explained that any surplus Defence equipment has potentially significant intrinsic value, and the first priority for both the MOD and HM Treasury will be to ensure that the department achieves the best return to the taxpayer. The Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA), part of MOD, disposes of Defence equipment that is surplus to requirement and this includes fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. (Note: before 1 September 2017 DESA was the Disposal Services Authority.)

Most surplus equipment is sold through a series of competitively awarded marketing agreements with specialist contractors. These marketing agreements are structured to not only encourage the commercial partner to achieve the highest possible level of return from sale but to provide a cost free disposal service to the Department, with costs and profit only being recoverable on completion of sale.

There are however, occasions (on an exceptional basis) where a unit declares either complete aircraft to the DESA when we can interrupt this process to sell these items either by Private Treaty or by Tender, but only if we can demonstrate that such an action would provide a better financial return to the MOD.

A list of the current specialist contractors can be found on the DESA website using the following internet link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-equipment-sales-authority>

From this list, you will note that of the three companies that you quote in your request, only Withams (Specialist Vehicles) is one of those specialist contractors. Everett Aeronautical Engineers Ltd and Air & Ground are among a wide range of purchasers of ex UK Ministry Defence aircraft; these companies do not have exclusive access to surplus aircraft.

Finally, I can confirm that another DESA specialist contractor (Military Spares UK Ltd) sold a Wessex Mk 2 helicopter (XR528) in June of this year.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours Sincerely,


DE&S Secretariat