



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. FOI2017/02230

[REDACTED]

13 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 February requesting the following information relating to low flying military aircraft:

Please provide figures showing the amount of activity by low flying military aircraft in (a) Night Low Flying Area 1C and (b) Night Low Flying Area 1D, expressed as a number of flying hours, for each year from 2010 to 2016, and broken down into (a) fixed wing aircraft (b) rotary wing aircraft.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held which is attached at Annex A.

Unfortunately, due to a change in the low flying booking software, we have experienced some issues with collating accurate low flying statistical information for Financial Year (FY) 13/14 and FY14/15. This issue does not affect the careful planning of low flying or aircraft booking into the system, it only affects the subsequent statistical collation. Although extensive efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the statistics this has not proved possible. Consequently, it has been decided that low flying statistics will not be published for FY13/14 and FY14/15.

Low flying statistical information for FY 15/16, which falls within the scope of your request, is exempt from release under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act as it is information that is intended for future publication. This information has therefore been withheld.

Under Section 16 of the Act the Department is required to provide advice and assistance and so you may wish to note that we plan to publish the FY 15/16 statistics on the Gov.uk website. The statistics will show the amount of routine and operational low flying in FY15/16, split into rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft. The statistics will be broken down into day low flying areas and night low flying areas.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then please 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

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Air Command Secretariat

Night Low Flying Activity for Night Low Flying area 1C and 1D

| Night Low Flying Activity - NS 1C & 1D | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| | | NS 1C | NS 1D |
| Year 10/11 | Fixed Wing (hours flown) | 60 | 73 |
| | Rotary Wing (hours flown) | 242 | 174 |
| | Total | 302 | 247 |
| | | | |
| Year 11/12 | Fixed Wing (hours flown) | 31 | 33 |
| | Rotary Wing (hours flown) | 142 | 128 |
| | Total | 173 | 161 |
| | | | |
| Year 12/13 | Fixed Wing (hours flown) | 85 | 64 |
| | Rotary Wing (hours flown) | 145 | 111 |
| | Total | 230 | 175 |

*All figures rounded up to the nearest hour