



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/04231

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28 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 31 March 2017 requesting the following information:

'I am making a freedom of information request for the cost per flight hour of the Merlin HM2 helicopter in each of the following years; 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Furthermore I am requesting that the cost per flight hour be broken down into the following categories:

1. *Aircraft crew personnel costs*
2. *Aircraft maintenance costs including spares and maintenance personnel*
3. *Mission system maintenance costs including spares and maintenance personnel*
4. *Fuel costs*
5. *Depreciation and amortisation*
6. *Other*

Additionally I am requesting the number of flight hours accumulated by the Merlin HM2 fleet in each of 2014, 2015 and 2016 and the average number of flight hours per Merlin HM" in each of those years.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold some of the information in scope of your request. Taking the parts of your request in order, the Department does not hold recorded information in the format you have requested detailing elements of the cost per flight hour of operating the Merlin HM Mk 2 helicopter. Supporting personnel and organisations commonly work in support of several different aircraft types and establishing the appropriate attribution of these costs to Merlin HM Mk 2 would therefore require the Ministry of Defence to generate new information which, under the Act, it is not obliged to do.

With regard to the second part of your request for the number of flying hours accumulated by the Merlin HM Mk 2 during 2014, 2015, and 2016, these are detailed in the table below:

Financial Year	No. of Flying Hours
14/15	4499
15/16	5255
16/17	5630

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, Zone D, 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section