



**Ministry
of Defence**

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

Ref: 2017/02469

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

21 Apr 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 February 2017, which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requesting the following information:

Please provide the following information:

-The names and lengths of the different phases of training of the current, 2016, RAF Typhoon pilot training programme. I believe there are phases of training called IOT, EFT, BJFT etc. Please provide a breakdown of the number of weeks and flying hours applicable to each phase of training.

-The cost of putting an individual through each of these phases of training. Please provide a breakdown of cost for each phase of training.

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

With regards to the first part of your question, please see below information relating to the names and durations of each phase of Typhoon pilot training:

Phase of Training	No of weeks	Flying Hours
Initial Officer Training (IOT)	24	n/a
Elementary Flying Training (EFT)	25-27 ¹	56
Basic Fast Jet Training (BFJT)	43	108:50
Advanced Jet Training (AJT)	54	94:55
Operational Conversion Unit (OCU)	n/a	52

¹ Elementary Flying Training duration is inclusive of 5 weeks groundschool and Fast Jet Lead In course and dependent on weather and time of year.

Please note that the Flying Training Pipeline is constantly under review in order to respond appropriately to frontline requirement.

As previously explained, some information in scope of your request (in this case, the second part of your request) was considered under the following qualified exemptions:

Section 27(1) of FOIA provides that we should withhold information which would be likely to prejudice relations between the UK and any other State, the interests of the UK abroad or the promotion, or protection, by the UK of its interests abroad.

Section 43(2) of the Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). The Act requires that we have to carry out a public interest test in these respects to show that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh the reasons for releasing the information.

Therefore, a Public Interest Test (PIT) has been conducted, against both exemptions, to determine whether, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweigh the public interest in disclosure. I found on balance, under S.43, the public's interest in the accountability of the MOD for its use of public money and demonstrating value for money would mean the information should be released. However, in regarding S.27, I have found that the balance lies in favour of withholding the information as releasing it could damage the trust and prejudice relations between the UK and its allies. This is because training is provided to other nations under government to government agreements which specify type, duration and cost of training to be provided. Release of this information could potentially undermine good relations between the UK and other nations. Therefore, the information requested in the second part of your question has been withheld.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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,
<http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat