



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2018/01586

26 February 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 31 January 2018 requesting the following information:

*Under the FOI Act 2000 could you provide details of all RAF, RN, AAC aircraft currently in the forward fleet & those in the sustainment fleet?*

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, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested, correct as of 1 February 2018, can be found in the table below.

**Fixed Wing Aircraft**

Aircraft	Service	Forward Fleet	Sustainment Fleet	Total
A400M	RAF	14	4	18
Airseeker (Rivet Joint)	RAF	2	1	3
Bae 146	RAF	3	1	4
C-130	RAF	13	7	20
C-17	RAF	6	2	8
Hawk T1	RAF and RN	39	43	82
Hawk T2	RAF	23	5	28
King Air	RAF	1	2	3
Lightning F-35	RAF	0	0	14
Reaper RPAS*	RAF	*	*	10
Sentinel	RAF	2	3	5
Sentry	RAF	3	4	7
Shadow	RAF	4	1	5
Tornado	RAF	26	11	37
Tucano	RAF	30	10	40
Typhoon	RAF	92	48	140
Voyager	RAF	9	5	14
Avenger	RN	4	0	4

Defender	AAC	7	2	9
Islander AL Mk 1	AAC	3	1	4

\*Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) numbers are not classed as being part of the forward or sustainment fleet.

#### Rotary Wing Aircraft

Aircraft	Service	Forward Fleet	Sustainment Fleet	Total
Chinook	RAF	39	21	60
Griffin	RAF	10	0	10
Juno	RAF	29	0	29
Jupiter	RAF	3	0	3
Puma	RAF	15	8	23
Squirrel	RAF	20	0	20
CHF Merlin	RN	11	14	25
Merlin Mk2	RN	20	10	30
Sea King Mk 7	RN	6	0	6
Wildcat AH	RN	24	10	34
Wildcat HMA	RN	22	6	28
Apache AH MK 1	AAC	42	8	50
Gazelle AH Mk 1	AAC	19	8	27
Wildcat AH MK 1	AAC	18	7	25

#### Gliders

Vigilant**	64
Viking**	79

\*\*The RAF does not differentiate between Forward and Sustainment Fleets of the Vigilant and Viking aircraft.

The Forward Fleet comprises serviceable and short term unserviceable aircraft. Typically, the short term unserviceable aircraft are those undergoing minor work. The Sustainment Fleet includes aircraft undergoing deep maintenance, upgrade programmes or being held in storage. It excludes those declared redundant, surplus or awaiting decommissioning or disposal. Depth maintenance is a completely normal part of managing a fleet of aircraft and is common across global air forces, it ensures that all aircraft are safe to fly and maintained in an appropriate condition for the front line. The total fleet numbers ensure that there is an appropriate division between those in the Forward Fleet and those in the Sustainment Fleet.

The numbers listed confirm the RAF have sufficient aircraft to meet current operational needs. Modern military aircraft are highly sophisticated and complex machines which require regular maintenance to keep them both safe to fly and at optimum performance levels, with this in mind, aircraft availability rates change considerably over very short periods of time.

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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



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Air Command