



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. 2018/16252

[REDACTED]

17 January 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 31 December 2018 asking for information about the recent incident at Gatwick Airport. Specifically, you requested:

"I am looking for information on the situation that took place recently at Gatwick Airport. The airport was on shutdown for several days due to an alleged drone being flown. I have recently seen a picture containing a UFO at Gatwick Airport. Whether it was a drone or not is questionable. But can you please provide information on what really happened and what was in the aerospace at the time. As something was definitely seen on radar for all these cancellations to take place and helicopters and military to be seen in the area."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held.

Military personnel were deployed to Gatwick Airport on 20 December 2018 in support of Sussex Police and the Department for Transport following reports of a drone encroaching the airspace there. The military were acting in support of the civil authorities and responsibility for investigating the sightings and security at Gatwick Airport remains with Sussex Police and the relevant airport authorities. If you require further information relating to events at the airport and the status of the investigation into the incident you may wish to contact Sussex Police who can be contacted through their website at the following link: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/>.


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


Secretariat 3a1
Air Command