



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
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Ministry of Defence
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Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk

Our Reference:
FOI2019/02518
Date:
20 March 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2019 requesting the following information:

"I would be interested in any information held by your organisation supporting the move of Tornado F3 tail number ZE966 to the Tornado Heritage Centre (also known as the Tornado Heritage Trust)."

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found in the attached letter, but personal details have been redacted in adherence to Section 40(2) (Personal Information) of the FOIA.

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). 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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COMBAT AIR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Fast Air Support Team
Defence Equipment & Support | Walnut 1a #1128
MOD Abbey Wood | Bristol BS34 8JH
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Museum of Science and Industry
Liverpool Road
Manchester
M3 4FP

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
20160725-Support for Donation
of Tornado F3 ZE966 to Tornado
Heritage Trust-O
Date: 25 July 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

SUPPORT FOR DONATION OF TORNADO F3 ZE966 TO THE TORNADO HERITAGE CENTRE

1. I am writing with regards to the Tornado F3 aircraft (tail number ZE966) that the Science Museum Group has offered for disposal from the Museum of Science and Industry Collection and, in particular, to support the aircraft's transfer to the Tornado Heritage Centre situated at Hawarden Airport near Chester.
2. By way of introduction, I lead the Project Team within the MoD's Defence Equipment & Support organisation and am responsible for the airworthiness, capability upgrades and in-service support of the RAF's fleet of Tornado GR4 aircraft. The Tornado has been in service for over 30 years and on operational service since the first Gulf War in 1991; indeed, the Tornado GR4 remains the backbone of the RAF's combat air capability and is currently engaged in operations over Iraq and Syria. I have spent the majority of my career in Tornado-related appointments, including front line tours on Tornado GR4 squadrons and a tour in the Project Team when I managed multi-million-pound projects to upgrade the Tornado F3 fleet with the latest air-to-air medium-range and short-range missile systems. In view of my time supporting the F3 and GR4 variants of the Tornado, I have a genuine affinity for the aircraft and am therefore very keen to ensure its capabilities, achievements and importance are recognised. That said I am also very keen to support those who may be studying or considering studying engineering and perhaps making a career in aviation and engineering.
3. To those ends, I have been very interested in the energy, enthusiasm and focus shown by the management and staff at the Tornado Heritage Centre, who are endeavouring to provide an interactive, educational and informative display of 'all things Tornado' at Hawarden Airport's Aviation Park. The Centre is reaching out to universities, schools and air training squadrons, many of whom have expressed genuine interest in visiting the Centre and whose students would gain a hands-on understanding of the principles of flight, aerodynamics, structures and weapons, as well as an inspirational and invaluable insight into a career in the RAF. I know that the Centre plans to acquire additional Tornado-related items to enrich its learning and development environment, but acquiring ZE966 in the short term would be a real centrepiece that would significantly enhance its current collection. That the aircraft would be sited in the north-west of England would also benefit the area, especially as it would be relatively close to where it was built at the BAE Systems factory at Warton near Preston.

4. I understand that you had planned to donate ZE966 to the Tornado Heritage Centre, but had to advertise the aircraft for 2 months to comply with Museum Association policy. I also understand that another museum has since expressed an interest in acquiring the aircraft for display amongst its other exhibits. I readily acknowledge that the MoD has no liability for the aircraft, having gifted it to the Museum of Science and Industry in 2006, and that you and your staff will decide where it is to be donated. However, I should like to offer my full support to the Tornado Heritage Centre's bid, not only for the aircraft to be used as a stimulating and rewarding education and training aid, but also in recognition of the Centre's capabilities and experience to preserve and maintain the aircraft, and its willingness to make the aircraft accessible to members of the public and not simply to have it on show as an exhibit. Moreover, the aircraft would also enrich the Aviation Park's display of history at Hawarden Airport and provide a greater perspective of the Cold War by its being positioned close to Russian-built fighter-bomber aircraft from that period.

5. In sum, I should be most grateful if you would consider more favourably the Tornado Heritage Centre's bid for ZE966 owing to the tangible benefits it would offer as an important and engaging part of the Centre's collection, the value of which would continue to be realised.

Yours sincerely,

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