



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref. 2019/07230

[REDACTED]

22 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 June 2019 asking for information about the recent deployment of F-35 Lightning aircraft to Cyprus. Specifically, you requested the following information:

*".....information concerning the deployment of RAF Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning aircraft to Cyprus for Exercise 'Lightning Dawn', starting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019.*

*Could you provide the following information:*

- 1. The serial numbers of the aircraft deployed.*
- 2. The number of aircrew and ground personnel deployed.*
- 3. The cost of the deployment.*
- 4. How many sorties were flown during the deployment, excluding the flights to and from Cyprus.*
- 5. What was the total number of flight hours flown during the deployment on Cyprus, excluding the flights to and from Cyprus."*

I am treating your correspondence as requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested, and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

The following six RAF F-35B Lightning aircraft were deployed to Cyprus for "*Lightning Dawn*": ZM143, ZM144, ZM145, ZM146, ZM147 and ZM148, together with, at a peak, some 230 military and civilian personnel.

Excluding transit flights to and from the deployment to Cyprus, F-35B Lightning aircraft undertook 99 sorties totalling 204 flying hours whilst based there.

Information on the additional costs to the MOD of the deployment of aircraft and personnel to Cyprus for "*Lightning Dawn*" have not yet been fully identified and collated. In particular,

any miscellaneous costs incurred during deployment will not have been processed through the MOD's payment system yet.

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](mailto: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