



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2020/04517
Date:
4 May 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2020 requesting the following information:

"Please can you provide answers to the following questions.

- 1. Were the Air Cadet Vigilant Motor Gliders put out to tender?***
- 2. How much were the Vigilant Motor Gliders sold for?***
- 3. Why is it now deemed that the airframes can be returned to airworthy condition but not for the air cadet organisation."***

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

This letter is to inform you that in respect of your request for information under Question 2 we have carried out a Public Interest Test (PIT) against the following qualified exemption: Section 43 (Commercial Interests). Section 43 is a qualified exemption and subject to public interest testing, which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The PIT concluded that Section 43 applies to the information requested at Question 2 as release of this information would enable anyone to deduce the individual price per glider.

This would adversely impact on the ability of Aerobility to obtain the best value for money for any future sales. I have considered it necessary to apply the higher-level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the level of “would” rather than “would be likely to”.

The other information you have requested is as follows.

Q1: Yes. A controlled sale to charities was agreed and the authority received proposals from two organisations to acquire, refurbish and operate the Vigilant fleet.

Q3: A significant amount of effort was invested into Vigilant recovery without success. By working with the original equipment manufacturer, the successful tenderer has been able to develop an innovative certification and repair strategy. This has allowed the Vigilant configuration, with some additional modifications such as a new engine and propeller, to become a civil certified aircraft.

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,

Defence Equipment and Support