



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support  
Secretariat Logistics  
Delivery & Support  
Enablers  
Building C16, C Site  
Ministry of Defence  
Ploughley Road, Lower  
Arcott  
Bicester OX25 2LD



Email: [DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-  
WPNS@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Our Reference:  
FOI2021/00475  
Date:  
9 February 2021

Thank you for your email of 10 December 2020 requesting the following information:

*“The UK Strategic Export Controls annual report 2019 stated that 2,323 Tornado spares were transferred to commercial entities in Saudi Arabia last year.*

*Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following:*

- 1. The dates these transfers were (a) approved and (b) took place, specifying the quantity that was transferred on each occasion if possible.*
- 2. How these spare parts were transferred to Saudi Arabia e.g. BAE cargo flight from Warton to Taif via Akrotiri?*
- 3. Where these spare parts were taken from e.g. Warton*
- 4. Where these spare parts were delivered to e.g. Taif*
- 5. Any records held related to these transfers, including but not limited to emails.*

*I expect your search to include records held by the Defence Equipment Sales Authority and MODSAP.*

*If my full request would exceed the cost limit, please only answer questions 1 to 4.”*

Further to your email of 14 January 2021 your request was refined as follows:

Defence Equipment & Support

***"The UK Strategic Export Controls annual report 2019 stated that 2,323 Tornado spares were transferred to commercial entities in Saudi Arabia last year.***

***Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following:***

- 1. I would like to know the dates on which the Tornado spares were transferred from the MOD to BAE, and then if possible the dates the spares were transferred from BAE to Saudi, if you hold that information.***
- 2. How these spare parts were transferred to Saudi Arabia e.g. BAE cargo flight from Warton to Taif via Akrotiri?***
- 3. Where these spare parts were taken from e.g. Warton***
- 4. Where these spare parts were delivered to e.g. Taif"***

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

The information you have requested can be found below.

For Question 1 we hold the following information in respect of the transfer of the Tornado spares from MOD to BAE:

There were three tranches of spares covered within the UK Strategic Export Controls annual report 2019. Due to the current Covid-19 workplace constraints it is not possible to access a copy of the Transfer of Title Certificates for Tranches 1 & 2.

However, we know the dates that invoices were paid by BAE Systems and that, typically, the Transfer of Title takes place within a few working days of an invoice being paid. The dates we hold are, as follows:

Tranche 1 (Sales Agreement 10): Date invoice paid 18/09/2019.

Tranche 2 (Sales Agreement 11): Date invoice paid 02/09/2019.

Tranche 3 (Sales Agreement 12): Date invoice paid 16/01/2020. Date of Transfer of Title 16/01/2020.

Information is not held by the MOD for the second part of Question 1 (BAE to Saudi Arabia) or for Questions 2-4.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the items listed in the Annual Report were transferred as part of the process used to manage the Royal Saudi Air Forces (RSAF) spares and repair requirement for the Tornado fleet, although only some of the requirement is satisfied using surplus MOD stocks. Broadly, the process is initiated by the issue of a periodic combined requirements list agreed between the RSAF and BAE Systems. The list is analysed to identify surplus MOD stock availability and any items identified endorsed for release. Prices for the items endorsed for release are then provided to BAE Systems, which confirms the final take up of items. The relevant surplus stocks then undergo suitability and engineering checks to confirm suitability for use by the

Defence Equipment & Support

RSAF, and the items passing these checks are consolidated on a list and offered to BAE Systems under a formal sales agreement. The signed sales agreement and associated BAE Systems purchase order acts as the authority to deliver the items to BAE Systems logistics partners, where transfer of title takes place. The MOD has no further involvement in the delivery of these items to Saudi Arabia which would have been conducted using commercial sea and air freight services.

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



Defence Equipment and Support