



Ministry of Defence

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1 September 2021

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 16 August in which you requested the following information:

- "1. What is the total number of flying hours logged for the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle programme as of 1.4.21 and how many of these hours have been on operations?"*
- 2. Other than WK031, WK06, WK43, WK42 and WK50, have any other of these aircraft been lost or damaged beyond repair? If so please provide me with details of the accident/loss giving the date of the incident, where it took place and a brief summary of the circumstances.*
- 3. How many Watchkeeper UAV has Department has purchased since 2005; and how many have been delivered to the department since 2005."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held and is below.

1. As at 1 April 2021 there had been 3147 hours and 49 minutes flown, of these, 212 hours and 55 minutes were operational.
2. I can confirm that there was a minor incident involving a Watchkeeper at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus on 14 October 2020. This has resulted in damage to the aircraft and components. A full investigation is currently underway and as such the MoD cannot comment further at this time.
3. I can advise that this information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain and can be found at the following link and by navigating to table 7:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-equipment-and-formations-2020>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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,



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