



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reference:
FOI2021/14776
Date: 15 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2021 requesting the following information:

"I purchased several aircraft and spares from the UK MOD in the early 90's. I urgently need to obtain a copy of the Bill of Sale and list of parts.

I seem to recall that at that time, prior to the formation of the Disposals Agency and various civilian contractors; that these types of Disposal were handled directly by UK MOD in Whitehall. If you have access to the records I would very much appreciate your assistance; if not I would be grateful if you could provide contact details for the relevant MOD department charged with overseeing such sales."

You subsequently confirmed your full name and added the following detail:

"The spares package related to the disposal of a number of ex Army Dehavilland DHC-2 Beaver AL1 aircraft and associated spares in several batches, which if I remember correctly, were located at RAF Shawbury."

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

A search undertaken by the Defence Equipment Sales Authority, which is part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and is responsible for disposing of surplus defence equipment, has indicated that a copy of the Bill of Sale for your aircraft is not held. Since the early 1990s, the MOD has undergone a number of organisational changes and it is no longer possible to identify whether business areas still exist that might have been involved in the sale of your aircraft at that time, or whether paperwork within the scope of your request is still held. However, due to the passage of time, it is unlikely that this information would still be held, but would have been archived and probably then disposed of after a period of time.

Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Guidance) requires a public authority to offer advice and assistance. Regrettably, due to the timescale involved in your request, there is little advice I could provide to help you. However, it will be useful for you to know that any information that has survived which is older than roughly 20 years (ie prior to 2001) may be held at The National Archives.

Defence Equipment & Support

Their address is:
The National Archives,
Kew,
Richmond,
Surrey,
TW9 4DU.
Web Address: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

Its catalogue (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/>) is available on the web so you will be able to search for files, although you will not be able to view any documents online. If you decide to visit the National Archives you will need to bring your Reader's Ticket, or if you do not possess one you will have to obtain one at the registration desk. For this you will require some form of identification, a passport, driving licence etc. The National Archives does not charge for Reader's Tickets. Alternatively, you may wish to consider employing a researcher to carry out the work for you. If you do decide to do this, then the National Archives will supply you with a list of independent researchers who will make a charge for their time.

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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

DE&S Secretariat

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