



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
#2043 Maple 0a
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

Our Reference:
FOI2023/06407
Date:
9 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing about your email of 23 May 2023 requesting the following information:

'I am trying to ascertain how much the Wildcat aircraft costs per year in maintenance. As minister of state for defence, James Heapney was asked; by what estimate he had made for maintenance costs per annum of the AgustaWestland AW159 Wildcat by MP Jeremy Hunt. In 2020 he is quoted as stating: The average per-hour and per-annum maintenance costs are given below: Wildcat Cost per Annum: £48million Cost per hour £4,033 Apache and Wildcat figures are based on actual figures from financial year 2018/19. (REF- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-01-16/4325>) Could you please direct me to the source of these numbers? and a more up-to-date figure as to the maintenance cost of the wildcat fleet.'

Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search for the information has been carried out of Ministry of Defence (MOD), and we can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you requested can be found below:

1. The source of the numbers

The information used to provide the numbers referenced in parliamentary question 2020 under UIN reference 00656 came from records held internally by the Wildcat Delivery Team of Defence Equipment and Support.

The Wildcat estimates were based on the physical equipment issued and used in the maintenance of each aircraft, and in accordance with the contract with industry. The flying hours for the Wildcat in the financial year 2018/2019 amounted to 12,000 hours. The breakdown is as follows:

Financial Year	18/19
Actual Cost Per Financial Year (£M)	£48.4M
Minimum Take Flying Hours	12,000
Actual/Forecast Cost per Hour Flown (£)	£4,033

2. The current maintenance cost of the Wildcat fleet

Financial Year	22/23
Actual Cost Per Financial Year (£M)	£74.2M
Minimum Take Flying Hours	8,695
Actual/Forecast Cost per Hour Flown (£)	£8,533

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance), we can advise that the above costs include capital spares purchases but exclude the following:

- training costs,
- private sector support costs;
- health and usage monitoring system costs.

Flying hours are also specified by the Wildcat Integrated Support and Training contract and earlier financial years were able to reduce the cost per hour flown by utilising spares from excess Lynx stock which were not available in the financial year 2022/23.

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,

DE&S Secretariat