



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
3 Deck, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY

FOI2023/01885

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 February 2023 in which you requested the following information:

'I am writing to request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act some information concerning Fleet Air Arm aircraft.

In particular, could you provide the aircraft serial, tail code and home station of the following types of FAA aircraft, as at 1 February 2023:

Dauphin
Merlin HM2
Merlin HC3/3A/4/4A
Wildcat HMA2
Avenger T1

Could you also indicate which airframes are held in storage or in forward/depth fleets.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

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

In response to your request, information detailing the serial number, home station and where appropriate, the tail codes of the aircraft listed can be found at Annex A to this letter.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, it may interest you to know, that the Dauphin fleet of aircraft does not come under the Fleet Air Arm. They are currently employed to provide support to the Royal Navy as the Fleet Helicopter Support Unit and are currently based in Newquay Airport. Please also be advised the numbers of aircraft in Depth fluctuates over time as aircraft are released back into the frontline.

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.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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section

Dauphin N2

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Comments</u>
ZJ 165	
ZJ 164 (*)	Inactive

- Where indicated (*), this aircraft is in storage, the remaining aircraft is currently in Forward Fleet.

Merlin Mk2

<u>Serial Number</u>
ZH824
ZH826
ZH827
ZH828
ZH829
ZH831 (D)
ZH832 (D)
ZH833
ZH834 (D)
ZH835
ZH836
ZH837 (D)
ZH839
ZH840 (D)
ZH841
ZH842 (D)
ZH843
ZH845
ZH846
ZH847
ZH850 (D)
ZH851
ZH853 (D)
ZH854
ZH856 (D)
ZH857 (D)
ZH860
ZH861
ZH862
ZH864

Merlin Mk4/4A

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Tail Code</u>
ZJ118	B
ZJ119	C
ZJ120	D
ZJ121	E
ZJ122	F
ZJ123	G
ZJ124	H
ZJ125	J
ZJ126	K
ZJ127	L
ZJ128	M
ZJ129 (D)	N
ZJ130	O
ZJ131	P
ZJ132	Q
ZJ134	S
ZJ135	T
ZJ136	U
ZJ137	W
ZJ990	AA
ZJ992	AB
ZJ994	AC
ZJ995	AD
ZJ998	AE
ZK001	AF

- Mk2 aircraft are currently based at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culdrose and the Mk4/4a Merlin aircraft are currently based at RNAS Yeovilton., None of the aircraft are in storage; where indicated with a (D), these aircraft are on Depth, the remainder are on Forward Fleet.

Merlin Mk3

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Comments</u>
ZJ133	Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit for Training use
ZJ117	HMS Sultan in preparation for gifting

- Mk3 aircraft are currently based in storage

Wildcat HMA

<u>Serial Number</u>
ZZ375
ZZ376
ZZ377
ZZ378
ZZ379
ZZ380
ZZ381
ZZ396
ZZ397
ZZ413
ZZ414
ZZ415
ZZ513 (D)
ZZ514
ZZ515
ZZ516
ZZ517
ZZ518
ZZ519
ZZ522 (D)
ZZ528
ZZ529 (D)
ZZ530
ZZ531 (D)
ZZ532
ZZ533
ZZ534 (D)
ZZ535

- Wildcat aircraft are currently based at HMS Heron none of which are held in storage, where indicated with a (D), these aircraft are on Depth, the remainder are on Forward Fleet.

Avenger T Mk1

<u>Serial Number</u>
ZZ500
ZZ501
ZZ502
ZZ503

- Avenger aircraft are currently based at RNAS Culdrose, none of which are held in storage, all are currently in Forward Fleet.

