



Ministry
of Defence



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Ref: FOI2018/09745

Mr James Jones
request-444054-6cea4358@whatdotheyknow.com

13 August 2018

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for your email dated 14 July 2018, which asked for the following information:

Following the Red Arrow accident, involving the death of Flt Lt Cunningham, it was recommended that modifications should be made to the ejection seat safety pin and the Seat Pan Firing Handle (SPFH). Can you advise me as what modifications were finalised, and if they have now been embodied?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

I can advise that Martin-Baker produced a new design of SPFH Housing which has an increased front profile to cover the front exposed face of the Firing Handle through which the Safety Pin is inserted. The modified SPFH Housing is designed to eliminate the possibility of inserting the Safety Pin when the Handle is in the partially withdrawn condition, which was possible with the unmodified Housing. The modified design also prevents routing of the harness straps to the side of the housing.

The unmodified and modified SPFH Housings are shown in Annex A.

All of the in-service operational Type 10 series of Ejection Seats have had this modification embodied; this includes Hawk TMk1 & TMk2, Tucano and Tornado.

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