



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
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Ref. 2019/00451

Robert Toland
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30 January 2019

Dear Mr Toland,

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 January 2019 asking for information about the Hawk T1. Specifically, you requested the following information:

1. *Can the Department confirm its plans for the use of Hawk Tmk1 in the Air Support Role out until the end of FY27/28? This specifically requests clarity be given wrt the following areas: 736 Naval Air Squadron (NAS), 100 Squadron (Sqn) and The Red Arrows. Key questions are as follows:*
 - a. *Clarify its position wrt any decision to extend 736 NAS operating the Hawk Tmk1 in the Air Support Role for an additional 18 months (iro November 2021). Please comment on TUPE considerations relating to contractor staff (Babcock), and FTRS aircrew. Please provide details of any IAC submission placed, including option submitted, in late 2018 along with the findings, recommendations and decisions.*
 - b. *What effect, if any, would an extension of 736 NAS have on the Forward Available Fleet (FAF) for 100 Sqn from April 2020, and what risk to the FAF in FY26/27 due to the depth fleet capacity to support requirements? Response to include the planned depth phase flow by aircraft serial numbers, intended use across the Hawk Tmk1 community and numbers of aircraft at unit level out until the end of FY26/27.*
 - c. *What is the latest position on the current HIOS contract with BAE Systems wrt Hawk Tmk1 support? Please provide aircraft serial numbers, planned maintenance phase flows, airframe hours of ALL remaining aircraft by serial number, and projected end of fatigue life for each airframe.*
 - d. *What is the status of the HIOS contract for the period April 2020 onwards? Please provide all non-commercial in confidence details.*
 - e. *What is the current disposition of the Hawk Tmk1 fleet numbers, maintenance phase flows, airframe hours of ALL remaining aircraft by serial number, and projected end of fatigue life for each airframe.*

f. What is the funded Annual Flying Task (AFT) position for Hawk Tmk1 for 736 NAS, 100 Sqn and The Red Arrows each year out until the end of FY26/27 or disbandment, if earlier.

g. What is the breakdown of AFT allocated against each Hawk Tmk1 user in sub-para f? For example, out of 4,200hrs on 100 Sqn, how much is for: Close Air Support (CAS), Air-to-Air Adversary Training, Refresher Training/Conversion, Crew Continuation Training, Air Exercise Programme and Defence Engagement? For 736 NAS this could include Maritime Trials, Adversary and Fighter Control Training.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request will be held.

However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without far exceeding the appropriate limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the costs of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, retrieving and extracting the information.

It is not possible to accurately estimate how long it would take to conduct this work as you have asked for a great deal of information covering a range of issues which is not held centrally. However, it is clear that this would far exceed the £600 limit and under the terms of Section 12 of the FOI Act, this means that we are not obliged to comply with your request.

Section 16 of the FOIA requires a public authority to offer advice and assistance on how to reduce or refine a request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit by narrowing or limiting its scope. I would suggest that you reduce your request to a single specific question and we will review to see if we can answer it within the appropriate limit.

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

Paul Webb
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Air Command