



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
Maple 0a, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



A. D. Aroyehun
[request-317058-449ae13b@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
FOI2016/02177
Date:
15 March 2016

Dear Mr Aroyehun

Your email dated 17th February 2016 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

Is MOD committed to completing an order of 232 Eurofighter Typhoons or has this been scaled back to 160 aircraft? If not so, are the aircraft exported to Saudi Arabia included in the 232 figure?

Is the government committed to ordering nine P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft before the next SDSR or 2020?

Lastly, will the government commit to ordering more than 5 of a new class of "lighter" frigates?

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request. The number of Typhoon aircraft to which the UK is committed is 160, the reduction from 232 was as a result of renegotiation among partner nations. The considerable evolution of Typhoon into a multi-role aircraft, enabled by technological developments incorporated into Tranche 2 and 3 means that we are able to meet the UK military requirement and international obligations with fewer aircraft than originally planned. The aircraft exported to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were not part of the original 232 aircraft.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 committed the government to ordering nine P-8 Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft. While dates remain to be finalised with the US Department of Defence, under current plans we anticipate that the first of these will enter service in the UK in financial year 2019/2020, and the final aircraft for the UK will be delivered in financial year 2021/2022.

As explained in the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 we intend to maintain a fleet of at least 19 frigates and destroyers, and design and build a new class of flexible general purpose frigates so that by the 2030s we can increase the total number of ships. The timetable for the general purpose frigate programme, and the number of ships we intend to buy, will be determined during the development of the National Shipbuilding Strategy, which will provide a means to maintain a long term and sustainable British shipbuilding industry across the UK.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DE&S Secretariat