



Ministry of Defence

Mr John Cooper

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND
Air Command Secretariat

Spitfire Block
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High Wycombe
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Email: request-153438-f3642db6@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: 18-03-2013-123120-009

11 April 2013

Dear Mr Cooper

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 March 2013 asking how many pieces of equipment have been unaccounted for by the Royal Air Force that was radioactive, not including radioactive instruments such as aircraft dials and gauges. This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Having researched your question through various MOD departments it appears the information requested is not held centrally. Also, you have not specified a timeframe that you are interested in which makes your request wide ranging. Without narrowing it down to a specific timeframe it is likely that your request would fall outside of the cost compliance limit set down in Section 12 of the FOI Act. This means it would take more than 25 individual man hours to locate, retrieve and compile the information requested. Section 1(3) of the FOI Act states that a public authority need not comply with a request unless any further information required to locate the information is supplied. It also states that public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to the applicant in order to focus the request.

It is not possible to identify information within the scope of your request by searching for all RAF equipment containing radioactive material. Please could you be more specific about the exact items you are referring to. Naming specific geographical locations would also help, for example an individual RAF station. Additionally, if you could limit your request to a specific timeframe that may also help.

If you could clarify your request further we can then investigate to see if the information requested is held.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 **Deputy Chief Information Officer**, 2nd 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.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat 3b

