




Ministry
of Defence



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Mr Mike Green
request-562106-882735d7@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: FOI2019/03359

Date: 14/05/2019

Dear Mr Green,

Thank you for your email of 16 March 2019 which requested the following information:

I'd like to request a copy of the documents which act as the flying manual and training syllabus used by the RAF for the training of RAF Basic Fast-Jet training pilots on the Beechcraft T-6C Texan T.1 training aircraft. I am a freelance journalist working on an article about the introduction of the aircraft to service.

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in the scope of your request is held. You should note, however, that the information requested falls within the scope of qualified exemptions Section 27 (international relations) and Section 43 (commercial interests) of the FOI Act. Section 43 provides that information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. Section 27 covers information which, if disclosed, would prejudice the UK's international relations or the UK's interests abroad.

As previously advised on 15 April 2019, it was necessary for us to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. A public interest test was conducted and concluded that releasing the Texan training syllabus would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Ascent. This information has therefore been withheld under Section 43(2) of the Act (commercial interests). The public interest test also concluded that releasing the Texan flight manual, which is governed by the US International Traffic in Arms Regulations, would be likely to jeopardise the UK's relationship with the US. This information has therefore been withheld under Section 27 of the Act (international relations).

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, Ground 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 Parliamentary