



Ministry  
of Defence

**HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND**  
Air Command Secretariat

Spitfire Block  
Royal Air Force  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP14 4UE

Our Ref: 2015/05297

8 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2015, within which you requested the following information:

*"I wish to know how many Grob tutors are based at Wittering, and how many at Cranwell? What is the planned distribution for the remainder of 2015? We are requesting a FULL AVOID of the PE8 5QU area".*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

There are 16 Grob Tutor aircraft permanently based at RAF Wittering.

There are 18 Grob Tutor aircraft permanently based at RAF College Cranwell.

In respect of your request to set up an avoidance area for the postcode PE8 5QU, please note that section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held.

You may find it helpful to know that the Information Commissioner's Office publishes guidance on how to make requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act, which can be found at the following email address:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>

I am sorry that you have been disturbed by aircraft activity near your home. Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act (Advice and Assistance), I can confirm that Grob tutor aircraft based at RAF Wittering and RAF College Cranwell were operating in the general area on 15 June 2015. Please note that the number of aircraft based at each Station can change on a daily

basis, depending on the service needs. The information provided above provides you with the likely steady state figures for each unit.

You may wish to be aware that if you are disturbed by military aircraft you can pass the details of the overflight, with the date, location and approximate time, to the responsible Ministry of Defence officials who will investigate the activity. They can be contacted on 01780 417558, or at: Ministry of Defence Air Staff Complaints and Enquiries Unit, Low Flying Operations Squadron, RAF Wittering, Peterborough, PE8 6HB. Their email address is [CAS-lowflying@mod.uk](mailto:CAS-lowflying@mod.uk).

I have passed your request for a new permanent avoidance area to the Ministry of Defence Air Staff Complaints and Enquiries Unit. I have to say that it is unlikely that a low flying avoidance area for your postcode will be approved because these are usually restricted to conservation areas, the protected airspace around airfields, glider sites and certain industrial locations as well as major towns and cities.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

Air D-Res Sec 1a