



# Strategic Command

**Strategic Command**  
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United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2024/08119

4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Chris Cole  
[chris@dronewars.net](mailto:chris@dronewars.net)

Dear Mr Cole

Thank you for your email of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 requesting the following information:

- 1. Have MoD been a participant of test flights of Zephyr or its variations since October 2021? If so please can you give dates?*
- 2. How many Zephyr aircraft have the UK acquired since 2016 and what is their current status?*
- 3. What is the total spending on Zephyr in years 2016-2018, 2019-2021 and from 2022 to current date?*
- 4. Has Zephyr been used on military operations since Oct 2021?*

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 (MOD) and I can confirm that the MOD holds some information in scope of your request, which is detailed below:

- Have MoD been a participant of test flights of Zephyr or its variations since October 2021? If so please can you give dates:  
No, the MOD have not been a participant of any test flights of Zephyr, or any variations, since October 2021.
- How many Zephyr aircraft have the UK acquired since 2016 and what is their current status:  
Three Zephyr prototype aircraft were acquired in 2016. One was damaged during a test flight in 2019, and the remaining 2 are currently being maintained in storage by AALTO.
- What is the total spending on Zephyr in years 2016-2018, 2019-2021 and from 2022 to current date:  
The total spending on Zephyr is as follows:
  - 2016-2018: £11.7 million
  - 2019-2021: £2.4 million
  - 2022-current: £0
- Has Zephyr been used on military operations since Oct 2021:  
The UK has not used Zephyr on military operations.

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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](#).

Yours sincerely

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