

JAMES CARTLIDGE MP  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

Ref: UIN No 7162/7163

22 March 2024

Dear Maria,

In my response to your Parliamentary Questions 7162 & 7163 you were promised a written answer to the following questions:

**To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many RAF aircraft were unable to fly in each month since January 2023; and for what reasons.**

**To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many RAF aircraft were operational in each month since January 2023.**

I attach at Annex A the numbers of aircraft which were in the Forward Fleets and the Depth/Sustainment fleets for each aircraft type on the first day of each month. The Forward Fleet comprises serviceable and short-term unserviceable aircraft. Typically, the short-term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or other unforeseen rectification or technical inspection that can arise on a day-to-day basis. The Depth/Sustainment fleet includes aircraft undergoing upgrade, maintenance or being held in storage. The number of aircraft varies day-to-day, according to normal flight management activities.

For contractor owned types this is split by those available to MOD and those with the contractor.

I hope this explains the position.

I am placing a copy of this letter and annex in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,



**JAMES CARTLIDGE MP**

Rt Hon Maria Eagle MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Enclosure(s)

## ANNEX

Atlas	Total Departmental Fleet Size	Forward Fleet	Depth/Sustainment
Jan-23	21	15	6
Feb-23	21	14	7
Mar-23	21	16	5
Apr-23	21	13	8
May-23	21	12	9
Jun-23	22	15	7
Jul-23	22	15	7
Aug-23	22	16	6
Sep-23	22	17	5
Oct-23	22	12	9
Nov-23	22	15	7
Dec-23	22	15	7

Hercules	Total Departmental Fleet Size	Forward Fleet	Depth/Sustainment
Jan-23	15	10	5
Feb-23	15	9	6
Mar-23	15	8	7
Apr-23	15	7	8
May-23	15	7	8
Jun-23	15	5	10
Jul-23	15	0	15
Aug-23	15	0	15
Sep-23	15	0	15
Oct-23	15	0	15
Nov-23	15	0	15
Dec-23	15	0	15

C-17	Total Departmental Fleet Size	Forward Fleet	Depth/Sustainment
Jan-23	8	7	1

<b>Feb-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Mar-23</b>	8	7	1
<b>Apr-23</b>	8	7	1
<b>May-23</b>	8	7	1
<b>Jun-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Jul-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Aug-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Sep-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Oct-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Nov-23</b>	8	6	2
<b>Dec-23</b>	8	6	2

<b>Envoy</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Feb-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Mar-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Apr-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>May-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Jun-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Jul-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Aug-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Sep-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Oct-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Nov-23</b>	2	2	0
<b>Dec-23</b>	2	2	0

<b>F-35B</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	30	21	9

<b>Feb-23</b>	30	20	10
<b>Mar-23</b>	30	20	10
<b>Apr-23</b>	30	21	9
<b>May-23</b>	30	23	7
<b>Jun-23</b>	30	23	7
<b>Jul-23</b>	32	25	7
<b>Aug-23</b>	32	24	8
<b>Sep-23</b>	32	24	8
<b>Oct-23</b>	32	24	8
<b>Nov-23</b>	32	25	7
<b>Dec-23</b>	32	24	8

<b>Typhoon</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	137	100	37
<b>Feb-23</b>	137	101	36
<b>Mar-23</b>	137	100	37
<b>Apr-23</b>	137	104	33
<b>May-23</b>	137	101	36
<b>Jun-23</b>	137	100	37
<b>Jul-23</b>	137	99	38
<b>Aug-23</b>	137	99	38
<b>Sep-23</b>	137	99	38
<b>Oct-23</b>	137	99	38
<b>Nov-23</b>	137	98	39
<b>Dec-23</b>	137	97	40

<b>Shadow</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	8	5	3

<b>Feb-23</b>	8	5	3
<b>Mar-23</b>	8	4	4
<b>Apr-23</b>	8	5	3
<b>May-23</b>	8	5	3
<b>Jun-23</b>	8	4	4
<b>Jul-23</b>	8	4	4
<b>Aug-23</b>	8	4	4
<b>Sep-23</b>	8	5	3
<b>Oct-23</b>	8	5	3
<b>Nov-23</b>	8	5	3
<b>Dec-23</b>	8	5	3

<b>Reaper</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	10	9	1
<b>Feb-23</b>	10	9	1
<b>Mar-23</b>	10	9	1
<b>Apr-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>May-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Jun-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Jul-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Aug-23</b>	8	8	0
<b>Sep-23</b>	8	8	0
<b>Oct-23</b>	8	8	0
<b>Nov-23</b>	8	8	0
<b>Dec-23</b>	8	8	0

<b>Rivet Joint</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Feb-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Mar-23</b>	3	2	1

<b>Apr-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>May-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Jun-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Jul-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Aug-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Sep-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Oct-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Nov-23</b>	3	2	1
<b>Dec-23</b>	3	2	1

<b>Poseidon</b>	<b>Total Departmental Fleet Size</b>	<b>Forward Fleet</b>	<b>Depth/Sustainment</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Feb-23</b>	9	8	1
<b>Mar-23</b>	9	8	1
<b>Apr-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>May-23</b>	9	8	1
<b>Jun-23</b>	9	8	1
<b>Jul-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Aug-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Sep-23</b>	9	8	1
<b>Oct-23</b>	9	9	0
<b>Nov-23</b>	9	7	2
<b>Dec-23</b>	9	9	0

**The following fleets are Contractor Owned**

<b>Voyager</b>	<b>Total Contracted Fleet Size</b>	<b>Available to MOD</b>	<b>With Contractor</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	14	10	4
<b>Feb-23</b>	14	10	4
<b>Mar-23</b>	14	10	4

<b>Apr-23</b>	14	10	4
<b>May-23</b>	14	11	3
<b>Jun-23</b>	14	9	5
<b>Jul-23</b>	14	10	4
<b>Aug-23</b>	14	11	3
<b>Sep-23</b>	14	11	3
<b>Oct-23</b>	14	10	4
<b>Nov-23</b>	14	10	4
<b>Dec-23</b>	14	10	4

<b>Prefect</b>	<b>Total Contracted Fleet Size</b>	<b>Available to MOD</b>	<b>With Contractor</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	23	21	2
<b>Feb-23</b>	23	22	1
<b>Mar-23</b>	23	21	2
<b>Apr-23</b>	23	21	2
<b>May-23</b>	23	22	1
<b>Jun-23</b>	23	20	3
<b>Jul-23</b>	23	19	4
<b>Aug-23</b>	23	23	0
<b>Sep-23</b>	23	21	2
<b>Oct-23</b>	23	22	1
<b>Nov-23</b>	23	22	1
<b>Dec-23</b>	23	20	3

<b>Phenom</b>	<b>Total Contracted Fleet Size</b>	<b>Available to MOD</b>	<b>With Contractor</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	5	4	1
<b>Feb-23</b>	5	4	1
<b>Mar-23</b>	5	4	1
<b>Apr-23</b>	5	5	0
<b>May-23</b>	5	3	2
<b>Jun-23</b>	5	4	1

<b>Jul-23</b>	5	4	1
<b>Aug-23</b>	5	5	0
<b>Sep-23</b>	5	5	0
<b>Oct-23</b>	5	4	1
<b>Nov-23</b>	5	5	0
<b>Dec-23</b>	5	5	0

<b>Texan</b>	<b>Total Contracted Fleet Size</b>	<b>Available to MOD</b>	<b>With Contractor</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	14	14	0
<b>Feb-23</b>	14	14	0
<b>Mar-23</b>	14	14	0
<b>Apr-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>May-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>Jun-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>Jul-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>Aug-23</b>	14	12	2
<b>Sep-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>Oct-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>Nov-23</b>	14	13	1
<b>Dec-23</b>	14	12	2

<b>Hawk T2</b>	<b>Total Contracted Fleet Size</b>	<b>Available to MOD</b>	<b>With Contractor</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	28	13	15
<b>Feb-23</b>	28	7	21
<b>Mar-23</b>	28	5	23
<b>Apr-23</b>	28	10	18
<b>May-23</b>	28	10	18
<b>Jun-23</b>	28	10	18
<b>Jul-23</b>	28	12	16



<b>Aug-23</b>	28	11	17
<b>Sep-23</b>	28	11	17
<b>Oct-23</b>	28	12	16
<b>Nov-23</b>	28	12	16
<b>Dec-23</b>	28	11	17

<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Total Contracted Fleet Size</b>	<b>Available to MOD</b>	<b>With Contractor</b>
<b>Jan-23</b>	91	73	18
<b>Feb-23</b>	91	71	20
<b>Mar-23</b>	91	72	19
<b>Apr-23</b>	91	76	15
<b>May-23</b>	91	69	22
<b>Jun-23</b>	91	72	19
<b>Jul-23</b>	91	58	33
<b>Aug-23</b>	91	55	36
<b>Sep-23</b>	91	53	38
<b>Oct-23</b>	91	58	33
<b>Nov-23</b>	91	70	21
<b>Dec-23</b>	91	70	21