

MSU: 4-2-6-7

28 July 2025

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your contribution to the Oral Statement on Ukraine on 17 July 2025. I promised that I would provide more information on the potential gifting of the RAF's Short Tucano and Grob Tutor aircraft.

The Tucano aircraft was retired from UK service in 2019/20 and there are no aircraft in the current inventory. Following its withdrawal from service a small number remained in disposal during 2022/23, and assessments were made to determine whether they could be used to support Ukraine. However, the aircraft were considered unsuitable due to prevalent battlefield conditions and, due to their condition, would have required considerable funding to refurbish or modify them. Therefore, it did not represent a cost-effective capability for Ukraine and disposal proceeded as planned.

Regarding your question on the Grob Tutor turboprop trainer. While the RAF retains a number of Tutor aircraft, RAF training aircraft are now operated through the UK Military Flying Training System and are not, therefore, available to Grant-in-Kind (GIK) to Ukraine.

The Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with our Ukrainian partners to identify how we can continue to support them against the illegal Russian invasion.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours Ever,

JH

THE RT HON JOHN HEALEY MP
Secretary of State for Defence

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