# Former RAF Pilots Sue UK Ministry of Defence Over Helicopter-Linked Cancer Outbreak



**Ex-RAF Pilots Sue UK Ministry of Defence Over Alleged Helicopter-Linked Cancer**

A group of former RAF pilots is suing the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) for allegedly developing cancer due to exposure to toxic exhaust fumes from military helicopters. The helicopters in question include the Wessex, Puma, Chinook, and Sea King. The claimants assert that the MoD was aware of the cancer risks as early as 1999 but failed to take preventive measures. To date, 40 individuals have joined the lawsuit, with numbers expected to rise.

At least three ex-servicemen have reportedly died from cancers such as multiple myeloma, lung cancer, testicular cancer, and throat cancer. Their families continue the legal battle posthumously. Some plaintiffs, such as ex-flight sergeant Zach Stubbings who trained Prince William, have already received out-of-court settlements.

Documents revealed during the disclosure process indicate the MoD had knowledge about the hazardous benzene carcinogens in helicopter exhaust fumes since 1999. Unlike Germany, which modified aircraft to mitigate exposure, the UK did not implement similar measures or provide protective equipment to personnel. Solicitor Louisa Donaghy and barrister Jonathan Dingle are among the lawyers representing the affected individuals.

In response, an MoD spokesperson stated that their policies are continually reviewed to align with best practices and safeguard personnel. They emphasized the availability of compensation for affected service members under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.