



Ministry  
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat  
Spitfire Block  
Headquarters Air Command  
Royal Air Force  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP14 4UE

Ref: FOI2018/13218

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

17 December 2018

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 20 October requesting the following information:

*“Please send me all documents between OC 2448 (Poynton) Squadron, OC Greater Manchester Wing ATC including staff officers and the Regional Commandant (North Region) including staff officers regarding the viability of 2448 (Poynton) Squadron ATC. To cover the last 24 months.*

*Please also include correspondence between OC Greater Manchester Wing ATC and the OC’s of 55 Sqn ATC, 236 Sqn ATC, 162 Sqn ATC where the viability of neighbouring 2448 squadron ATC is therein discussed or communicated. To cover the last 12 months.”*

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.

The documents and correspondence that you have requested are attached at Annex A. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. Additionally, a small amount of information within the material requested relating to the viability of 2448 (Poynton) Squadron has been found to fall within scope of the qualified exemption Section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Therefore, a Public Interest Test has been conducted to determine whether, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. I have found that, under Section 43, the balance lies in favour of withholding the information as releasing it could prejudice the commercial interests of the RAF. This is because revealing details of the MOD’s commercial transactions could endanger the MOD’s ability to negotiate in the future with potential commercial partners. Consequently, this information has been redacted.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the FOIA. 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 at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:03  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: Future of 2448 Poynton

FOI 11

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 26 June 2018 11:21  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Future of 2448 Poynton

[Redacted]

My apologies, I will be there tonight

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 June 2018 16:33  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Future of 2448 Poynton

[Redacted]

Further to my email of 14 June, please could you confirm if you are able to attend the meeting at 2448 Poynton this coming Tuesday. [Redacted] has already confirmed [Redacted] will be there.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 14 June 2018 21:54

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Future of 2448 Poynton

[REDACTED]

Further to the Wing meeting last week and our conversation about the future of 2448 Poynton, I have now updated the Squadron Civcom of your verbal briefing to me. As you would expect with such a positive squadron infrastructure and increasing cadet numbers, the committee members are both shocked and disappointed.

However understanding the current officer resource situation within GM Wing, the committee is keen to work with you to steer a way forward. To this end I would like to invite you to our next Civcom meeting so we can discuss openly all possible avenues to maintain an ATC presence in Poynton.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26 June @ 1930 at the Poynton Squadron building. Please advise if you are available to join us on this date.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 18 July 2018 00:01  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** 2448 (Poynton) Squadron Closer update

Sir

I attended the second meeting with the Civ com regards the closer of the above Squadron a better meeting than the one held 2 weeks previously. It has been agreed pending a further meeting with all stakeholders which will take place on the 11th September the following action.

The Squadron will be consumed by 236 Bollington, although not the nearest, but has a similar community perspective which the committee felt was important and both units have worked well in the past. I have spoken to both [Redacted] and [Redacted]. they have agreed and are happy with the proposal, if at the meeting on the 11th there are no objections to the proposal then I would expect the transfer will be completed by the 30th September.

I will provide top cover if the [Redacted] has to leave before that date to ensure we have staff cover.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:03  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: Squadron HQ transfer discussion

FOi 4

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 22:38  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Squadron HQ transfer discussion

Sir,

I have consulted with the staff committee and (cadets this was done keeping the sqn number and location anonymous)

We have all considered and discussed at length in relevant peer groups the pros and cons and logistics involved for all.

The committee unanimously said no.

The staff said no.

For me in person the logistics of travelling further than I already do on parade nights would make the change very difficult due to the unpredictable nature of my work I ofen finish late, so unless there was the likelielihood of 55 loosing its HQ I would not consider it.

Regards [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 July 2018 21:43

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Squadron HQ transfer discussion

[REDACTED]

The reason you have not had any thing is that it is not in your AOR and there is nothing you can do about that.

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 12 July 2018 09:24

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Squadron HQ transfer discussion

Sir,

Thank you for this information,

Please can you confirm the details for our HQ we have never had anything in writing only what the scouts have said to us.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 July 2018 16:16

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Squadron HQ transfer discussion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 09 July 2018 21:54

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Squadron HQ transfer discussion

Sir,

Following your request for us to consider the possibility of moving to another location we are in the process of discussing a suitable answer and in order to do this we require further information.

Please can you clarify the following details for both our current HQ and the other Sqns HQ.

The information we would like is

What are the tenures - leasehold or freehold

If they are leasehold

Who are the landlords

When do the leases expire

What are the renewal options

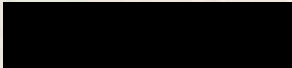
Are there any other known significant factor that may affect the long term tenure of either location.

I will then be able to give you a clear answer based on consultation with the cadets, staff, committee and my own personal position.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





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[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:03  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: Any update on 2448  
**Attachments:** Meeting Poynton 2509218.docx

FOI 9

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 15 September 2018 16:11  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Any update on 2448

[Redacted]

Please find attached the letter that will be sent out, if you feel it requires amending please let me know accordingly

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 15 September 2018 12:41  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Any update on 2448

Well that's your call as [Redacted] I believe the normal rules say 14 days ... but then this is not normal.

I would therefore suggest a pre-meet at say 1900. Also we must see copy of the parents' letter before the meeting, as promised.

[Redacted]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 15, 2018 10:54:23 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Any update on 2448

[REDACTED]

I would have thought that would be ok for all, [REDACTED] has all the email addresses so we should be able to get a communication quickly?

Thoughts

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 September 2018 10:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Any update on 2448

[REDACTED]

I have responses from most of the Civcom members so we can meet on Tuesday 25 September, 1930 at 2448 Squadron.

I assume this will just be a Civcom / Squadron meeting as it is under the 14 days notice for parents.

I am now overseas for the next week on business, however I will be able to pick up emails from time to time.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2018 19:16

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Any update on 2448

Thank you [REDACTED]

I will canvas the committee for a date and revert.

Best regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 September 2018 18:56  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Any update on 2448

[REDACTED]

The overall position has not changed, since we last met I have had to start a similar process with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

An advert / request has been put in the mail drop to see if there any takers for any of the Squadron that are at risk, [REDACTED] & 2448.

It would be good if you could give me some available dates that you are free, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and I am not sure where we are with [REDACTED] as it is now September.

Look forward to hearing from you soon

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 September 2018 18:23  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Any update on 2448

[REDACTED]

Yes of course. I'm sure we can find a mutually convenient date.

First though, I, the committee and the officers would like an update from you on the closure position and comms process.

The [REDACTED] tells me that in this week's mail drop there is a notice for vacancy/recruitment for 2448?!

Best regards  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 11, 2018 12:20:27 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Any update on 2448

[REDACTED]

Tonight's meeting is cancelled can you give me your availability and we can re-organise accordingly

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 06 September 2018 20:58

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Any update on 2448

[REDACTED]

I'm looking for any information or communication on the situation for 2448. Checking with the officers and other Civcom members, nothing has been heard since our last meeting some months ago.

I know we pencilled in the 11 Sep for a possible next meeting; unfortunately I have now been called away with work to Glasgow so I will not be available that night.

Any update would be appreciated by all at 2448 Poynton.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





**Greater Manchester Wing  
Air Training Corps**

Officer Commanding  
University Barracks  
Boundary Lane  
MANCHESTER  
M15 6DH

Website: [www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets](http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets)

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Your reference:

Our reference: GMW/2448/Org/1

Date: 15th September 2018

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Dear Parent & Cadet

Reference: **2448 (Poynton) Squadron**

I would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the current situation with regards to above unit, it is important that we have a good attendance in order to ensure that we get a good perspective of the situation at hand and plan going forward which will be explained fully at the meeting .

The meeting will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Squadron Headquarters, Lawrence Place, Poynton commencing at 1930hrs.

I hope that you will be able to attend and look forward to meeting you on the night.

Best Regards



[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:03  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: Last night's committee meeting & the way forward .....

FOI 8

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 28 September 2018 11:43  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Last night's committee meeting & the way forward .....

[Redacted]

I notice from your email to [Redacted] second paragraph in, I am some what bemused at the content, unless I am reading it wrong.

The back ground to this is as follows:-

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Yes I could take blame for the demise of any of the Squadrons in my Command and closing Squadrons is not a task I take lightly, however Squadron Commanders are responsible for the operation of their unit with support from the Civ Com and Chaplaincy. If there are problems these need to be highlighted sooner than later.



As I stated at the meeting I should have closed the unit when it had 4 cadets, but I didn't in the hope that we could rescue it, however this may not be the case now, this is unfortunate, there are others in the same boat at present and are accepting that fact.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 September 2018 08:15  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Last night's committee meeting & the way forward .....

Morning [REDACTED]

Many thanks to you and the Committee for clearly stating your position; and for considering my views. It is exactly what we all agreed to do on Tuesday now past.

I will, for the remainder of my tenure, provide as much support as I can to both the Committee and to the [REDACTED] - and work with instruction that I am given.

Please be kind enough to note that, because [REDACTED], instruction from the [REDACTED] will have to take precedence. And for this reason I have CCd the [REDACTED] in on my email today.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 September 2018 22:29:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Last night's committee meeting & the way forward .....

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email setting out your opinion on the history, current situation and way forward for 2448. I do not wish to make this a long a reply and therefore give you my response as follows.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our thanks and best wishes goes to him. Additionally there is your good self who took up the challenge of [REDACTED] a number of years back and you have worked tirelessly to bring order, control and some good old administration to the squadron. Again, we thank you very much for that.

However we are now in an extraordinary situation where it is proposed that the squadron should close because of a lack of suitable recruitment and staff planning by the ATC. You quite rightly point out it is the Cadets, both current and future, that we are here to protect. This is why the Civcom has been looking at all options over the last three months with the [REDACTED] to see if a temporary or different way of working could be established to maintain the ATC's presence in Poynton. Although the [REDACTED] was attentive to this, it was very evident by the meeting on Tuesday that he has made no attempt to resolve the situation. Indeed we could have had that meeting with the parents some time ago.

The 9 Oct meeting is so that parents and cadets can see what is on offer from the other squadrons following which they will then be in possession of all the facts and available options. What this does not address however is the loss to the Poynton community for those who are not cadets yet. This is a one-way street and when closed, the squadron will be gone for good.

The opinion of the cadets, parents and wider community is important here and so after a period of reflection, the Civcom believe that this group should have the opportunity to challenge the decision made by the [REDACTED] if they so wish. We believe the best way to do this to diary hold a follow up parent/Civcom meeting one week later, only to take place if there is an appetite to do so. If there is not then as Civcom we will support the closure process going forward.

I would therefore appreciate it if with the meeting invitation for 9 Oct there is also a 'hold the date' for one week later for a parent/Civcom only meeting if needed.

I hope this helps explains the position of the committee on the subject.

With best regards

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 26 September 2018 10:06  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Last night's committee meeting & the way forward .....

Good day All

Thank you for attending last night's sessions.

As we all agreed, all future communications will be given to / shared with all of us.

With this in mind; given where we are; and considering the next steps I would like to share the following with you all.

Please review and share any thoughts with the whole group.

1. Firstly, I thank you for having me at the 2nd meeting last night. I do believe that I have one foot in each camp: the uniformed side and the civilian side.
2. At last night's meeting we, again, commented that our uniformed officers have been taken from us by the organisation. [REDACTED] - this is simply not true at all. Let me explain:

1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

We've all agreed that our aim is "the best solution for the cadets".

We have to move 100% in that direction - and keeping 2448 (Poynton) Squadron is not an alternative as there are no uniformed officers available in our region / target area. They are just not there .....

That is the simple truth that we just don't want to seem to accept.

We have no recourse to the Greater Manchester Wing - or to higher up in the organisation.

So, personally, I don't see what the Committee want to achieve by having a Committee / Parents' meeting on the 16th of October? Everything can be achieved at the end of the meeting on the 9th.

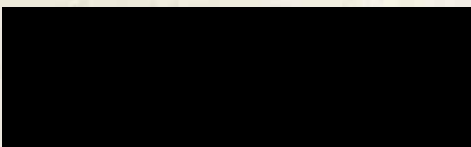
Please share your thoughts with the group.

I am more than willing to meet and re-discuss the above; please just let me know when and where.

And I'll close by asking all of you: please, please, lets us all move forward to hep the cadets in their move to bigger and more active squadrons. That we stop working on what "we'd like" - yes, it is a pity about Poynton Squadron, but we as a committee and as an organisation we do not have any other solution. It is exactly what each of the cadets deserve from all of us; and what the parents expect from us as officers and committee members.

It's not a Wing decision; it is reality that this is the best that we can achieve for our committed cadets.

Many thanks,



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:03  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT - POYNTON ATC SET TO CLOSE 1st NOV

FOi 3

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 October 2018 23:34  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT - POYNTON ATC SET TO CLOSE 1st NOV

Sir,

FYI

Please see below an email passed to me by a member of Poynton round table.

it was sent out as a plea for help.

I think [REDACTED] was a former cadet of 2448 in the late 1990's

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Hi,

I am a parent of one of the cadets [REDACTED]

On September 25th, parents were told that despite significant growth (from just 4 to 18 cadets in 12 months), 2448 Poynton Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC) looks set to close due to staffing issues. They need experienced officers and a new civilian instructor if they are set to continue.

In very short order arrangements were made for other squadrons to 'pitch' to cadets and parents. This happened last night. At that meeting one of the squadrons let slip that they had been aware of the issue since early summer. At this meeting it was also revealed that the squadron will close 1st November, meaning that there will be no cadet presence on remembrance day in Poynton. I find it unbelievable that the first the community would know about all this would have been remembrance day, when the cadets would not have been there to lead the parade, as is tradition.

Parents are very angry that the [REDACTED] in charge of the regional cadets appears to have an 'agenda'. There has been no active communication with the community about the plight of the squadron and no steps taken to recruit local people to support the squadron. The fact that other squadrons have been aware for at least 6 months supports the view that local cadet management want the squadron closed (otherwise they would be taking the steps I am now taking in trying to save the squadron) If the squadron closes on 1st November, parents will have had just 5 weeks from notice to closure.

The civilian committee is meeting next Tuesday with parents to discuss the way this has been handled by the [REDACTED]

Please can you get involved and help save the squadron. In the first instance can you notify your members of this situation. If anyone has a particular view, or can help, they might want to attend the meeting next Tuesday 19:30, Lawrence Place, Poynton.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 17 October 2018 07:21

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: PR Disaster

[REDACTED]

Please speak.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Tuesday, 16 Oct 2018, 10:41 pm

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** PR Disaster

[REDACTED]

You are about to have a major PR issue, squarely down to [REDACTED]

I strongly suggest that you look into the situation surrounding 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC.

The community is very angry, MPs have been mobilised and there is press interest from the BBC and Manchester Evening news.

I strongly suggest you make sure [REDACTED] is press trained.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2018 07:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Poynton ATC to close in two week!!!

[REDACTED]

And another.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 Oct 2018, 10:18 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Poynton ATC to close in two week!!!

Dear Sir,

Hope you are well and don't mind this informal email from a concerned parent.

My son has the mathematical and scientific ability and grades that would make him an invaluable asset to the RAF in a few years time.

Unfortunately Poynton ATC is due to close it's doors and stop parading in two weeks.

Apparently there is some internal politics going on between [REDACTED]

There are 18 cadets and a community rich in RAF history, the base is literally a stones throw from the end of Woodford Aerospace runway.

Famous for the production of Lancasters, Vulcans and Nimrods.

The local community have been unaware of Poyntons (at risk) status and kept in the dark.

Please can you investigate what the hell is going on before it's too late.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 17 October 2018 11:08

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** 20180105\_2448 (Poynton) Squadron update

Sir

Situation

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
1 [REDACTED]  
1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

he has been with the Squadron 8 years.

[REDACTED] has been with the unit for 10 years plus as a [REDACTED] in the first instance then took over the role as the [REDACTED]

An active committee lead by [REDACTED] (5 Members)

Since [REDACTED] has been with the Squadron he has actively tried to recruit additional CFAV's, 2 ladies showed interest and commenced the process and then decided not to progress.

I first spoke to the [REDACTED] at a Squadron Chairs meeting on the **6th June** and informed him that the Squadron may have to close, however we were in early days, this was brought about by a conversation I had the week before when I visited the Squadron with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I was informed that [REDACTED] was looking to work out of the area and that [REDACTED] was becoming worn out doing too much ie 4 nights plus weekends.

This chat led to a committee meeting that was held on the **26th June** when I addressed the committee on the situation in hand present were 4 committee members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (standing in for [REDACTED]) At this time [REDACTED] was unsure of a time line when he would be going, but he felt it would be towards the end of the year? I was asked to explore the possibility of one of the local Squadrons, 55,162,236 if they would like to move there Squadrons to Poynton as the HQ there was in better condition this I did and reported back at the next meeting.

I then met again with the committee on the **17th July** as requested by them which had given them time for the situation to be discussed and come back to me with questions, [REDACTED] in attendance. At the

meeting it was decided that I write to the parents and invite them in for a meeting on the **11th September**, this date was proposed as being the earliest date due to holidays. this meeting was cancelled, because [REDACTED] was not available.

The **11th September** meeting was rearranged for the **25th September**, this letter went out via email rather than post. I attended and spoke to all the parents regarding the situation and answered questions on the situation. the committee as one of the options of where the cadets would go I arranged for the 3 nearest Squadrons to attend on the **9th October** to each give a presentation on what their Squadron could offer and why the cadet should come to them.

The meeting on the 9th October was poorly attended by parents not as many as the 25th September, 3 presentations were given from the 3 Squadrons named above, again a Q & A session at the end. At the end of the meeting [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A further meeting was arranged for the staff, committee and parents on the **16th October** I was not in attendance at this meeting.

To day 17th October I have received [REDACTED]

#### Notes:

1. As from the 25th September all correspondences to all parties has been via email and has been coordinated by [REDACTED] as a focal point of contact.
2. 55,162,236 and [REDACTED] were asked whether they wish to move there operation to a better hut?
3. The Wing has actively canvased for staff to go to the Squadron
4. 2 potential new CI's turned up on the 2nd October, [REDACTED] to offer help

#### Special Note:

1. I feel that [REDACTED] as stated at the end of the meeting on the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and resolve what was becoming a raft of emails and meetings going over the same ground and not moving forward.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2018 11:03  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: 2448 additional info

FOI 2

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2018 11:20  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** 2448 additional info

Sir

Forgot to include

55 3.7 miles    this is is 1.7 by train one stop  
162 4.8 miles  
236 4.8 miles

[Redacted]

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2018 11:51  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

[REDACTED]

Latest Exocet attached.

Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 17 Oct 2018, 11:00 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk <david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk>, [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** DefenceSecretary-Group (MULTIUSER) <DefenceSecretary-Group@mod.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ACO-HQAC-comdt@mod.uk <ACO-HQAC-comdt@mod.uk>  
**Subject:** 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

To:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Copied:

Gavin Williamson - Defence Secretary

Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty - HQ Air Cadets

Dear all,

As a parent and former cadet, I have written and communicated with you all about the plight of 2448 Poynton Squadron ATC. I feel I should write to you all collectively with my perspectives and a helpful

timeline. I feel a great injustice has been done, owing in no small part to a lack of communication and engagement with the vibrant community of Poynton. I end with some calls to action that I hope you can engage with.

At a 'dining in' evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Poynton British legion the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] eluded to challenges within the Air Cadet Organisation. However, he made no mention of staffing or resourcing being a specific issue for Poynton Squadron at that time.

Over the intervening period the squadron continued to recruit, and grow to a strength of 18 (previously at just 4), and to my mind there was no inkling of there being an issue.

On the 17th September parents received an email to attend a meeting on the 25th September 2018 at the Squadron Headquarters. This email mentioned 'the current situation' and I know for a fact this puzzled both parents and cadets who were unaware of any 'situation'.

At the meeting of the 25th September [REDACTED] addressed both cadets and parents and explained that there was a serious staffing issue with both the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Poynton squadron unable to continue in their posts much longer and that efforts to relive them had failed. Whilst time had not quite ran out, he said that arrangements would be made for neighbouring squadrons to present their propositions to the cadets. To many of the parents in the room this came as a total shock and it felt like a fete-a-complete.

We were told that there would be two further meetings, the first one being with the neighbouring squadrons lined up to take our cadets, and the second with the civilian committee.

I posted a brief message on Facebook and got multiple responses from the community sharing concerns that there had been no communication about the plight of the squadron. Go to the 'Poynton News & Gossip' group and you will see for yourself. Four people came forward, and three people offering their services have been directed to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

The meeting with the neighbouring squadrons was then held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. The [REDACTED] from 55 Sqn Bramhall & Woodford let slip that he had been aware of the issue since the summer, and indeed so had the parents and cadets who he then canvassed about moving to Poynton (which they discounted). And so, it was revealed that other cadets and parents knew about the situation before we did! We were also told at this meeting that the [REDACTED] would step down by November and so the squadron would close. This means it will have been just 5 weeks from notification, to closure.

One take away I had from this meeting was that other, similar communities to ours were able to build and contribute to vibrant and successful squadrons. There also seems to be staff available, certainly in Bollington and Stockport who may be able to assist Poynton, at least in the short term.

Frustrated that the trajectory appeared to be that the cadets would disperse, and the squadron close, I felt that the community's key stakeholders should know what is going on. I could not imagine a scenario where the first Poynton knew about the situation was when the cadets failed to turn up on Remembrance Day 2018, 100 years after WW1 ended! The cadets traditionally lead the procession. Last year there was 9, this year there was set to be 18.

I reached out to:

- [REDACTED] He confirmed he was unaware of the situation and was willing to help pending the outcome of the Civilian Cttee meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. He has the information regarding 'cadet week' and the schools cadet programme at his fingertips.
- The Rotary Club and Round Table of Poynton. Again unaware. They have informed their members to see if anyone has the experience to assist. Directed to [REDACTED]
- The Royal British Legion, Poynton. Again unaware. This is quite frankly a disgrace as the Legion is very much seen as the 'parent' organisation for cadets locally.

- The Manchester Evening News/Macclesfield Express. Very interested and a journalist and photographer have been assigned to write a piece.

I am also aware of other parent's mobilising their own contacts and a number have written to the council and MP David Rutley. David has since sent me a message he is looking into the matter urgently. He was also unaware.

I also have personal contacts at the BBC who I have had informal conversations with and they would look at doing pieces too, but only if the squadron closes.

It is clear as day to me that there has been poor communication with the parents and cadets and the wider community. Ultimately this may well lead to Poynton losing its squadron. This is unfair, and someone should be held to account.

I'd like to know:

1. When exactly the other neighbouring squadrons were told about the situation?
2. When did the [REDACTED] know about the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] plans? The signs are he could have foreseen this 2 years ago.
3. Given it is a community-based organisation, what efforts were made to engage with the local community to find suitable relief for the [REDACTED]? Whose responsibility is this?
4. Why was there no active engagement with the community on recruitment? With JUST one post I generated at least 3 interested parties. A lack of volunteers just doesn't wash. In Poynton they were never asked for.
5. Given it is a community-based organisation, why weren't key community stakeholders made aware of potential closure? Whose responsibility is this?
6. Why, if the decision to close is now formal has no one from the Air Cadet organisation engaged with the community to inform them of this?

Also, I wonder what have the potential adult recruits been told, given they stepped forward to help maintain the squadron there was a comment made by staff that they could end up deployed elsewhere.

At the civilian cttee/parent meeting last night (which was gate-crashed by ATC staff taking notes) there was a great deal of anger from parents and a feeling that the situation has been badly handled by the [REDACTED]. Even now he has not had the courtesy to communicate with community leaders. There is a strong sense shared by both parents and the civilian cttee he did not want any aggravation and has waited until the very last minute, giving us minimal opportunities to rectify things. We feel railroaded.

A slither of hope.

[REDACTED] who we believe is ultimately responsible for Air Cadets in our area and is copied in helps us come up with an interim solution that keeps the squadron open, in Poynton until either:

1. The staffing is sorted out via proper community engagement.
2. The School forms its own cadet unit and the cadet's transition there.

A way forward. We have just 2 weeks!!!

- Mr Rutley, can you please make Gavin Williamson aware and see what can be done to help the squadron in the interim.
- I know [REDACTED] is willing to meet with the [REDACTED] hopefully to take him to task. I will liase with the [REDACTED] to see if we can make this happen... Based on his engagement with the community so far on this, I wouldn't hold your breath. Again time is pressing.
- [REDACTED] investigates and organises an interim solution with the [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] investigates the opportunities to open a cadet unit at the school, securing a long term solution which is seemingly more in line with the Governments plans.

- I will press the button on the Manchester Evening News/Macc Express in any event. [REDACTED] the journalist is also copied in.

Whatever happened we must ALL fight for the unit to remain open beyond November. Otherwise some cadets will leave, and others will be cast to possibly up to four neighbouring squadrons and Poynton will lose its cadet presence for ever.

The opportunity is a re-energised cadet presence in Poynton - we should grasp this!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2018 16:21  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 2448 (Poynton Squadron Air Cadets)

[REDACTED]

Email 3.

Regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2018 15:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk  
**Subject:** FW: 2448 (Poynton Squadron Air Cadets)

Hello [REDACTED]

Just a few weeks ago the Government launched the very first National Cadet Week. Amongst those commenting was the Prime Minister who pledged that there would be an increased focus and investment into cadet opportunities under the government.

Poynton is a village that is inextricably linked to the manufacturing of British airpower; from the Lancaster to the Vulcan Bomber. Indeed it is arguably the village that 'built' these aircraft and has this aviation history embedded in our identity. Any visitor to Poynton is likely to pass the 'propeller' road marker, Johnnie Johnson Housing (founded by a famous ww2 ace) or Senior Aerospace (formally BWT). Most of us worked or know someone who did at the BAe Woodford Facility, just a mile from the village.

For many years, the village has proudly been the home of 2448 squadron of the Air cadets. I need not remind you of the huge benefits, as echoed by you're the Government recently of these organisations on both their young members and the community. Through those years its success has ebbed and flowed almost as a matter of routine – from 40 or 50 cadets, down to a dozen – and back.

This squadron is now set, 2 months after 'national cadet week' and whilst servicing a growing 15,000 strong community (which is without any other comparable cadet group), to close. This year, those who choose to stand at Poynton's cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday will see it devoid of the escorting cadets that have been present over generations.

Over the last 12 months internal politics within the corps has set about dealing the squadron a slow death (the events and the politics are surprisingly well understood by the community, and certainly disappointing for an



organisation that has amongst its responsibilities that to represent the RAF and its credibility). The value of the site the unit parades on, the exiting of the [REDACTED] and competition for activities such as flying, adventure, camps and shooting between neighbouring squadrons has brought about a deliberate amalgamation with other units. To be clear, low numbers are the *effect* of a denial to members of activities for which the corps is famed and a passive attitude towards attempting to develop or grow the squadron. Low numbers are not the *cause* of the closure. There has been zero formal promotion of the unit by the Air Training Corps, and this is deliberate.

I am keen to understand your views on the value of cadet groups in communities with such deep historical ties to aviation and the influence you have extended in these matters. I would also be keen to gauge if you feel that, particularly due to its history Poynton deserves this type of unit and should be formally supported to promote activities and membership? Do you feel there are adequate options for young people who might fancy a career in the armed forces or simply something 'a little different' from scouts or guides? And, finally – are you confident that all reasonable avenues have been exhausted?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 20:09

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Fw: Parents at parade night - 18th Oct

[REDACTED]

PSB from [REDACTED] I am somewhat disappointed in this action and although I can not stop the parents taking photo's outside the Squadron these cadets are in our charge when attending the Squadron and we have a duty of care, we don't know if parents have given consent for these other parents to take photo's and release them to the media?

On another note I have phoned and left 2 messages now on [REDACTED] mobile but no reply as yet, I find it difficult to engage stakeholders as it is suggested that I haven't/don't do if they wont pick up the phone.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 19:46

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Parents at parade night - 18th Oct

Evening Sir

As discussed on the phone, when I arrived to open up tonight (18:50) the cadets were already all outside. Together with 3 parents.

I requested, on more than one occasion, that the parents join me in the [REDACTED] office, which they totally ignored each time. They insisted that they had been in touch with all the parents and who had given their consent for their kids to be in a photo that the 3 wanted to take. Despite me informing them that photos were within the remit of the squadron officers - they, again, ignored my request and took the photo/s outside the front gate.

The 3 parents who were down were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - so I am told by the [REDACTED]

I was also informed that these parents had told the cadets that the photo would be going to Macclesfield Express and something called "Manchester in the News". They were, I believe, also told that if the squadron were to close then the BBC would be contacted.

May I, respectively, ask that we consider taking this up with the [REDACTED] of 2448 (Poynton)? I don't know if he was aware of tonight's activities, but it may be worth finding out.

I have to verify, that the above, with the exception of my own involvement, is hearsay - but I have no reason to doubt my [REDACTED]

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 20:19

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Parents at parade night - 18th Oct

Hi [REDACTED]

I have just been send the photo from [REDACTED]. I have been away with work in Europe since Tueaday's parents meeting and have no knowledge of this. Action like this was not discussed at the meeting or inferred by the parents. I have not responded to the message so far.

I fully agree with your comments and thoughts. I will consider the situation when I get home tomorrow.

Best regards  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2018 9:09:29 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Fw: Parents at parade night - 18th Oct

[REDACTED]

PSB from [REDACTED] I am somewhat disappointed in this action and although I can not stop the parents taking photo's outside the Squadron these cadets are in our charge when attending the Squadron and we have a duty of care, we don't know if parents have given consent for these other parents to take photo's and release them to the media?

On another note I have phoned and left 2 messages now on [REDACTED] mobile but no reply as yet, I find it difficult to engage stakeholders as it is suggested that I haven't/don't do if they wont pick up the phone.

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 October 2018 19:46

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Parents at parade night - 18th Oct

Evening Sir

As discussed on the phone, when I arrived to open up tonight (18:50) the cadets were already all outside. Together with 3 parents.

I requested, on more than one occasion, that the parents join me in the [REDACTED] office, which they totally ignored each time. They insisted that they had been in touch with all the parents and who had given their consent for their kids to be in a photo that the 3 wanted to take. Despite me informing them that photos were within the remit of the squadron officers - they, again, ignored my request and took the photo/s outside the front gate.

The 3 parents who were down were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - so I am told by the [REDACTED]

I was also informed that these parents had told the cadets that the photo would be going to Macclesfield Express and something called "Manchester in the News". They were, I believe, also told that if the squadron were to close then the BBC would be contacted.

May I, respectfully, ask that we consider taking this up with the [REDACTED] of 2448 (Poynton)? I don't know if he was aware of tonight's activities, but it may be worth finding out.

I have to verify, that the above, with the exception of my own involvement, is hearsay - but I have no reason to doubt my [REDACTED]

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

[REDACTED]

PSA – please arrange a meeting as discussed for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Sqn and invite all the necessary stakeholders and cadets ASAP.

Regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

I have one voicemail that I received yesterday. Ironically I was in a meeting with a former cabinet minister and discussing this very topic when that call came in.

You need to step up [REDACTED] and grab hold of this. It may be that you have not read between the lines but let me very clear - parents and cadets, and it seems some staff have an issue with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and his handling of this matter. The squadron, cadets, and the community are casualties and we cannot accept that. Worryingly, owing to our activity we are hearing of other issues from others which I am reluctant to put into writing. The long and the short of it is the [REDACTED] is not the man we want to engage with. We do however want him and his handling of this to be looked at and if necessary to be held to account - and I believe from direct correspondence I have had from others on this email string that others do to.

If you are saying realistically that you can engage with us to keep the cadets together and the squadron in Poynton than of course parents will be willing to talk with you directly, though clearly time and logistics are against us. I would involve the cadets in this too - they have been very smart, united and have read the situation very well. HOWEVER, We are also under no illusion that the position of the air cadet organisation on the ground does not appear to be changing trajectory. Just last night:

1) Parents received an email requesting that we advise which of the neighbouring squadrons our cadets would go to BY NEXT WEEK. Having cadets squared away into neighbouring squadrons is very convenient and plays into the narrative that we have been steamrolled. It also allows you to claim 'X % of cadets have successfully transitioned to other squadrons, so no great loss'.

2) The cadets also claim they were spoken with at parade telling them there is absolutely nothing they can do to save the squadron. This was after staff witnessed (and attempted to stop) the photoshoot taking place. They were allegedly told that what they did was 'a very silly thing to do'. I actually think it was a very admirable thing to do - to not have the support of ATC staff is in contrast a disgrace.

Re-appraise and re position yourself [REDACTED] and take steps to understand what has really gone on. Do not attempt to have me (remember I am but a parent) or anyone else shoulder responsibility for engagement activities your direct reports should be responsible for and have so dismally executed.

WE HAVE ONE WEEK TO GO...

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 07:45  
**To:** [REDACTED] [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has attempted to contact you on a number of occasions to try and arrange a meeting with me and other stakeholders as soon as possible. Please engage so that we are able to discuss this further.

Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, 18 Oct 2018, 10:50 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED] [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)  
<[david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)>, [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** DefenceSecretary-Group (MULTIUSER) <[DefenceSecretary-Group@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DefenceSecretary-Group@mod.gov.uk)>, [REDACTED] [aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk](mailto:aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk) <[aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk](mailto:aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

Update: A photo was taken tonight of the cadets for the Manchester Evening News/Macc Express. The cadets turned up in their number 1 dress off their own bat. Very sad to see. See attached my own photo taken alongside the photographer.

Parents then met tonight at the Kingfisher and we learnt:

1) we are getting multiple reports of people writing to the Air Cadet organisation about this issue and being fobbed off with a meeting with the very same [REDACTED] parents, cadets and civ comm hold responsible for this mess. Bizarre.

2) There are also reports of new volunteers coming forward and emails being ignored. 3) Through our campaign, we are now in communication with others in our region who are having or who have had issues with Wing management.

We are looking at FOI requests as a next step and the national press is being engaged about this and other matters relating to the management of the Wing.

Your continued support is most welcome.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:48  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

PSA – are we able to offer an alternative date or has the letter gone out?

Regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:46  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

You have offered a small glimmer of hope.

However its all a bit late in the day and makes everything very difficult, which is the contention of most of the parents. This was known about but not communicated some time ago and the situation entirely predictable.

You also contradict what we have been told by the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when WE suggested the idea of mothballing - it was discounted and we were told to focus on the prosperity of neighbouring squadrons instead. I suspect there is some back peddling going on - I lay this not at your door however.

You are right about parents getting involved in assisting the squadron. We have proven we can mobilise and find recruits, but this was off our own bat and we simply have not had the time on our side. Had we known 6 - 12 months ago it could have been different.

Unfortunately the date suggested, falls on a half term in the local area, and I fear you will not get the turnout expected. Personally I am away as well.

Also, should you plan be agreed, I wonder who might lead its execution? I for one have no faith in the person who got us into this mess.

Finally there are some cadets who walk to the SQN who do not have a unit within reach and there is a large group in an neighbouring village who will see their drives double. The neighbouring squadrons also parade on different nights and many of the Poynton cadets have other commitments on those nights, having managed their time believing in a future at 2448.

Not sure that helps, but its the way it

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:53  
**To:** [REDACTED] [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

[REDACTED]

I am trying to arrange to meet with you and the other parents / stakeholders in order to see how we can resolve the issues and determine whether or not we have a realistic possibility of securing staff to support the Sqn going forward. However, as previously advised by [REDACTED] we have no volunteers (willing or able) to step up at this short notice in order to keep the Sqn open, once [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] leave and as unpaid volunteers (and not members of the Regular RAF) I cannot simply compel or order anyone to volunteer to assist you at Poynton against their will. So at best, the cadets will have to parade elsewhere until we can provide new volunteers from the local community or beyond. However, this is not a quick process and requires significant commitment from the volunteer, hence why we have failed to recruit anyone so far. If you and the other parents are able to assist us by either stepping forward to assist as volunteers yourselves, or spread the word around the local community that we need help, then I would look not to close the Sqn but suspend it, retain the Site, mothball the facility and reopen as soon as we have successfully recruited and trained new staff, but this could be 6 - 12 months realistically. In the meantime, no existing Poynton Sqn cadet will miss out as they all have been offered places at other Sqns (which are a reasonable travelling distance and currently able to offer greater choice of activity and a wider cadet experience than Poynton Sqn because of their size and resources), hence the email from the Sqn as they need to plan ahead regardless, as they both the volunteers leave soon and in the interests of safety and safeguarding, I cannot and will not allow a Sqn to parade without trained ATC Adult Staff.

I have proposed a meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October @ 1930 at the Sqn, for the Parents, Cadets, Civ Comm, Staff and key stakeholders only, which I hope you are able to attend and where I look forward to meeting you.

Regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:39  
**To:** [REDACTED] [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk](mailto:aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

I have one voicemail that I received yesterday. Ironically I was in a meeting with a former cabinet minister and discussing this very topic when that call came in.

You need to step up [REDACTED] and grab hold of this. It may be that you have not read between the lines but let me very clear - parents and cadets, and it seems some staff have an issue with the [REDACTED] and his handling of this matter. The squadron, cadets, and the community are casualties and we cannot accept that. Worryingly, owing to our activity we are hearing of other issues from others which I am reluctant to put into writing. The long and the short of it is the [REDACTED] is not the man we

want to engage with. We do however want him and his handling of this to be looked at and if necessary to be held to account - and I believe from direct correspondence I have had from others on this email string that others do to.

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2) The cadets also claim they were spoken with at parade telling them there is absolutely nothing they can do to save the squadron. This was after staff witnessed (and attempted to stop) the photoshoot taking place. They were allegedly told that what they did was 'a very silly thing to do'. I actually think it was a very admirable thing to do - to not have the support of ATC staff is in contrast a disgrace.

Re-appraise and re position yourself [REDACTED] and take steps to understand what has really gone on. Do not attempt to have me (remember I am but a parent) or anyone else shoulder responsibility for engagement activities your direct reports should be responsible for and have so dismally executed.

WE HAVE ONE WEEK TO GO...

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 07:45  
**To:** [REDACTED] [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk](mailto:aco-hqac-comdt@mod.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has attempted to contact you on a number of occasions to try and arrange a meeting with me and other stakeholders as soon as possible. Please engage so that we are able to discuss this further.

Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, 18 Oct 2018, 10:50 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED] [david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)  
<[david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk)>, [REDACTED]

Cc: DefenceSecretary-Group (MULTIUSER) <DefenceSecretary-Group@mod.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <aco-hgac-comdt@mod.uk <aco-hgac-comdt@mod.uk>

Subject: Re: 2448 Poynton Sqn ATC

Update: A photo was taken tonight of the cadets for the Manchester Evening News/Macc Express. The cadets turned up in their number 1 dress off their own bat. Very sad to see. See attached my own photo taken alongside the photographer.

Parents then met tonight at the Kingfisher and we learnt:

1) we are getting multiple reports of people writing to the Air Cadet organisation about this issue and being fobbed off with a meeting with the very same [REDACTED] parents, cadets and civ comm hold responsible for this mess. Bizarre.

2) There are also reports of new volunteers coming forward and emails being ignored. 3) Through our campaign, we are now in communication with others in our region who are having or who have had issues with Wing management.

We are looking at FOI requests as a next step and the national press is being engaged about this and other matters relating to the management of the Wing.

Your continued support is most welcome.

[REDACTED]

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**

[REDACTED]  
19 October 2018 16:41

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] david.rutley.mp@parliament.uk;

**Cc:**  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:**

[REDACTED]

2448 (Poynton) Squadron - meeting on 6th November 2018 at 19:30  
2448 Poynton Meeting 30102018 viz2.docx

Good evening

A meeting has been proposed for Tuesday 6th November, 2018 at 2448 (Poynton) squadron headquarters. For full details of the invitation, please review the attached letter. For ease of reference, our physical address is shown in the letterhead.

Please be kind enough to confirm your attendance, or non-attendance, by return email.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



2448 (Poynton) Squadron  
Lawrence Place  
Poynton  
Cheshire  
SK12 1LN

19 Oct 2018

**2448 (Poynton) Squadron**

Dear Stakeholder

It is proposed that a meeting is held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 commencing at 1930hrs at the Squadron Headquarters, this will be to discuss the current situation and the way forward for 2448 (Poynton) Squadron.

[Redacted] will be present at the meeting to answer your questions and concerns.

The meeting is by invitation only and we would be grateful if you can confirm your attendance prior to the meeting to myself, [Redacted]

This letter is being sent to all committee members, staff, cadets/Parents and key stakeholders that have been mentioned in previous correspondence from the various parties via email, if from the address header there is someone that has been missed please let me know and we can invite them.

Unfortunately, this is a closed meeting and the media will not be invited, this is standard procedure. Please be assured that we will be transparent throughout.

We look forward to seeing you on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Best Wishes

[Redacted signature block]