



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2020/06108

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

23 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 May 2020 requesting the following information:

*“Would it be possible to get the last 5 years data on the number of applicant for pilot aircres (sic) roles and the number of successfull (sic) applicants.*

*You it also be possible to get the statistics for the breakdown of the number of pilots are streamed into Multi Engine, Rotary and Fast Jet once they have successfully passed the EFT training.*

*Finally if the bugest (sic) for my request allows would it be possible to find out the pass and fail rates for the BFJ course and the AFJ course at RAF Valley and from preious (sic) courses at RAF Linton-On-Ouse?”*

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 information in scope of your request is held.

In relation to the below, please note the following caveats apply:

- All data that is provided is in recruitment years, which span from 1 April to 31 March in the stated year.
- The recruitment training process varies in length and there is variance in the requirement for pilots, based on when suitable positions become available for streamed aircrew. This means that the events in a recruitment year are not directly correlated.
- The data only includes digitally recorded information, it does not include any manual process driven statistics.
- For Questions 2 and 3 the figures are for the Royal Air Force (RAF) only, it does not include figures for personnel from other Services or International Defence Training students.
- In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded

to the nearest 10, where "0" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

- 1) Last 5 years data on the number of applicants for pilot aircrew roles and the number of successful applicants

Recruitment Year	Applicants	Initial Officer Training Entrants
2015/16	1934	70
2016/17	2252	120
2017/18	1609	120
2018/19	2729	70
2019/20	2712	40

The data provided for Question 1 is for Regular RAF applicants only with a recorded job role of pilot.

- 2) Breakdown of the number of pilots who are streamed into Multi-Engine, Rotary and Fast Jet once they have successfully passed the Elementary Flying training (EFT).

Recruitment Year	Fast Jet	Multi-Engine	Rotary Wing
2015/16	10	10	20
2016/17	40	40	40
2017/18	10	20	10
2018/19	10	20	~
2019/20	20	40	10

Information prior to 2018 was not collated centrally, the data provided is the recorded information held within the current centralised database.

- 3) The fail rates for the Basic Fast Jet (BFJ) course and Advanced Fast Jet (AFJ) course.

Year	BFJ	AFJ
2015/16	6%	12%
2016/17	0%	26%
2017/18	0%	19%
2018/19	6%	10%
2019/20*	0%	0%

\*2019/20 has a 0% fail rate as this cohort is still to fully graduate.

The fail rates include data from both RAF Valley and RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. 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 take your complaint 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 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,

[Original signed]

Air Command Secretariat