



# Ministry of Defence

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13 November 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 16 October in which you asked for the following information:

*"I request the following information regarding RAF TG8 Fire Service at RAF Kinloss and RAF Lossiemouth:*

*The capitation rate for all the individual TG8/RAF fire staff located at KINLOSS AND LOSSIEMOUTH? Please inform how many of each grade are at each location.*

*What is the future for Kinloss, is it to remain open? If so until when? What are the daily opening hours? How often is it closed on those days? What is the expenditure for the fire personnel stationed there? Does the tax payer pay the wages of those stationed at Kinloss?*

*Is the Fire Station at Lossiemouth established for and manned by MoD civilian firefighter's?*

*What was the original reason for RAF personnel utilised at Lossiemouth? Why are RAF personnel still located at the fire station Lossiemouth?*

*At what cost to the tax payer are RAF Fire Service placed at Lossiemouth to backfill the positions there? Explain how many RAF fire workers are located at Lossiemouth to work each day by grade and cost them by grade, with an overall cost included?*

*What would be the cost to fill those positions utilising overtime payments utilising the established MoD DFRS firefighter's, instead of utilising RAF personnel every day and over manning the station?*

*Is Kinloss over manned with TG8 fire staff when calculated using the normal indicators for established manning levels? If so why are they over manned? What is the current number of RAF fire service personnel nationally? What is the dedicated number of RAF fire staff for deployment purposes? It is meant to be 527, how many RAF TG8 fire staff are there currently?*

*What is the current established number of MoD DFRS fire workers for Lossiemouth fire station, using the JSP 426/ICAO calculations? How many are currently there? When will the establishment numbers for DFRS staff be achieved?*

*If and when the fire staff are transferred to a private provider under the defence fire rescue project (DFRP) can you confirm this will only include the established DFRS staff?*

*What would be the cost to fill those positions required for future up manning to facilitate the Aircraft Crash Firefighting Cover for P8 Aircraft with Fixed Term Appointment/New Recruits into DFRS? How much would it cost using RAF TG8 personnel?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds some of the information requested. The information is attached. Some has been withheld under Section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain and are detailed in the attached pages.

Some of your questions are not requests for recorded information as they are general questions. I have, therefore, treated these questions as business as usual under section 16 of the FOIA – advice and assistance.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

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 Freedom of Information Act. 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,



Disclosure and Litigation Leader

## **FOI2017/10204 – RESPONSE**

1. *The capitation rate for all the individual TG8/RAF fire staff located at KINLOSS AND LOSSIEMOUTH?*

There are no TG8 RAF personnel permanently based at Lossiemouth.

Details for Kinloss are shown in the table below:

Rank	Cap Rate
Flight Sergeant	£69,841
Sergeant	£61,621
Corporal	£52,077
SAC Fire Fighter	£38,987

Note: The above cap rates do not differentiate between TG8 personnel and other RAF personnel in the same rank. The information above is, therefore, based on actuals and strength by rank to derive an average rate by rank.

2. *What is the future for Kinloss, is it to remain open? If so until when?*

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that Kinloss is currently a relief landing ground for the RAF and, as such, requires the provision of fire-fighters for the protection of Armed Forces personnel. The Secretary of State's 'A Better Defence Estate' announcement on 7 November 2016 identified a number of core MOD sites, as well as a number of sites for disposal. There are MOD sites, such as Kinloss, that fell into neither category and may be subject to further assessment work in the future.

3. *What are the daily opening hours? How often is it closed on those days? What is the expenditure for the fire personnel stationed there? Does the tax payer pay the wages of those stationed at Kinloss?*

Details of the Relief Landing Ground opening times at Kinloss are contained in the En-Route Supplement British Isles and North Atlantic (BINA), which provides a comprehensive listing of aeronautical information including airfields and navigation aids for specific regions. This document states that use of the RLG is "as required by Lossiemouth. Below is a link to the Aeronautical Information Documents Unit site, from which you can purchase a copy of the BINA referred to above:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/657467/Final\\_Product\\_and\\_Services\\_2017\\_18\\_FullInj.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/657467/Final_Product_and_Services_2017_18_FullInj.pdf)

Requested details about personnel at Kinloss are shown in the answer to question 1.

4. *Is the Fire Station at Lossiemouth established for and manned by MoD civilian firefighter's?*

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that civilian firefighters are established for and manned at Lossiemouth.

5. *What was the original reason for RAF personnel utilised at Lossiemouth?*



This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that during the summer of 2014, two Typhoon squadrons, 6 Squadron and 1 (Fighter) Squadron, relocated to RAF Lossiemouth. The Station's third Typhoon squadron, II (Army Co-operation) Squadron relocated from RAF Marham in early 2015. As part of the changes, the Station assumed Quick Reaction Alert (Interceptor) North (QRA(I)N) duties from September 2014. RAF Lossiemouth is now primarily responsible for maintaining QRA(I)N, providing crews and aircraft at high states of readiness 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to police UK airspace and to detect and deter aircraft causing concern. This requires airfield fire-cover, provided by military fire-fighters, for the safety and protection of Armed Forces personnel.

6. *Why are RAF personnel still located at the fire station Lossiemouth?*

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that in addition to the QRA commitment, many of the Station's units remain on very high readiness for operations and hosts several National and International exercises as part of the Defence Exercise Programme (DEP) each year. As such, for up to four months a year, the Station has an additional requirement to maintain its airfield fire cover to relevant International Civilian Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Crash Categories, which can be for a prolonged period of time and on occasions at very short notice. TG8 support is critical in the success of this on-going task.

7. *At what cost to the tax payer are RAF Fire Service placed at Lossiemouth to backfill the positions there? Explain how many RAF fire workers are located at Lossiemouth to work each day by grade and cost them by grade, with an overall cost included?*

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that there are no additional costs to the tax payer by temporarily placing RAF firefighters at Lossiemouth. There are currently 10 (rounded to the nearest multiple of ten) RAF firefighters at Lossiemouth. Due to the low numbers by rank I am unable to provide this information in detail.

8. *What would be the cost to fill those positions utilising overtime payments utilising the established MoD DFRS firefighter's, instead of utilising RAF personnel every day and over manning the station?*

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that DFRS Fire-fighters are paid 1.5 times the capitation rate when required to work overtime. RAF Lossiemouth is frequently required to increase the level of Aircraft Rescue and Fire-fighting capability. Much of the increase has been undertaken by flexibly rostering the DFRMO fire-fighters. During FY 16/17 flexible rostering, use of DFRMO RAF Fire fighters, contributed toward 6720 hours of saved overtime which equates to over £195k.

9. *Is Kinloss over manned with TG8 fire staff when calculated using the normal indicators for established manning levels? If so why are they over manned?*

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that there may be occasions where all fire stations are operating above the minimum levels required for the aircraft type. This may be for a combination of reasons.

10. *What is the current number of RAF fire service personnel nationally? What is the dedicated number of RAF fire staff for deployment purposes? It is meant to be 527, how many RAF TG8 fire staff are there currently?*

As at 1 September 2017, the total trained strength of TG8 Fire-fighters was 530 (rounded to the nearest multiple of ten), all of whom would be deployable if required, subject to individual deployable medical grading.

11. What is the current established number of MoD DFRS fire workers for Lossiemouth fire station, using the JSP 426/ICAO calculations? How many are currently there? When will the establishment numbers for DFRS staff be achieved?

Requested details are shown in the table below:

Establishment	29
Current Numbers	30

Note: the current number has been rounded to the nearest multiple of ten in accordance with statistical policy.

The final question about when the established numbers will be achieved is not a request under FOIA. Under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that it is anticipated additional DFRS recruits will be operating at RAF Lossiemouth early 2018

12. If and when the fire staff are transferred to a private provider under the defence fire rescue project (DFRP) can you confirm this will only include the established DFRS staff?

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise all DFRS and RAF fire-fighters are in scope for transfer to the contractor although military fire-fighters will not be subject to TUPE conditions.

13. What would be the cost to fill those positions required for future up manning to facilitate the Aircraft Crash Firefighting Cover for P8 Aircraft with Fixed Term Appointment/New Recruits into DFRS? How much would it cost using RAF TG8 personnel?

This is not a request under FOIA but under section 16 of the Act – Advice and Assistance – I can advise that to cover the P8 aircraft would require an additional four Crew Managers and eight Firefighters to provide a minimum total compliment of 40 personnel plus the Fire Station Manager. The cost will be based on the capitation rates given above in the response to Question 1.