



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/09325

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26 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 September 2017 requesting the following information:

'In response to your letter requesting the further information regarding a FOI request, I requested the following information, and have added clarification as requested.

- 1. How many Sea King Airborne Surveillance and Control (SKASAC) Observers and Pilots have completed their training at 849 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) without having passed all elements of their course, specifically the Fighter Control (FC) phase as well as other elements; in order to gather sufficient data, I respectfully request that this is dated as far back as 1982.*
- 2. I also requested to be informed of how many aviators (Pilots/observers, or aircrewmen) that either failed or were withdrawn from training courses, continuation or initial, that DID NOT then attend a meeting/interview with President of the Naval Air Board (PNAB) to ascertain the reason for failure or withdrawal.*
- 3. I request to know what the relationship between the Royal Navy/MoD and Peter Glenser (barrister) and Issy Hogg (solicitor), ie. in what capacity are they either employed, paid or voluntary, engaged with the RN with regards to legal advice, representation, training, supervision, or any other capacity. (See Regina v Sgt Alex Blackman, and Regina v Lt DEA Anderson et al)'*

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 and taking you questions in order:

In response to your first question, the data you require is only available from 1 November 2010 as records are only held for a 7 year period, however, I am able to tell you that pilots do not conduct

any Fighter Control (FC) training as part of their Sea King Airborne and Surveillance (SKASaC) course. No Observer has completed their training at 849 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) having failed to meet the standard for any element of the course.

With regard to the second part of your request, there have not been any initial flight training students who have failed a flying training course who have not been referred to Naval Aircrew Advisory Board (NAAB). For those students who have converted or those already on the trained strength, there have been less than five personnel who have failed the course and were subsequently returned direct to source branch. All initial flight training students who either fail, voluntary withdraw or have medical issues are referred to NAAB.

In response to the third part of your request we can confirm that the named individuals have worked under the Armed Forces Criminal Legal Aid Authority (AFCLAA) and separately Mr Peter Glenser has in the past trained Naval Barristers. Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to be aware of the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/armed-forces-criminal-legal-aid-authority-afclaa>

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

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). 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section