



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2015/03256

[REDACTED]

17 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 March 2015 asking for information about the decision to use the term "spare time" rather than "part time" in RAF Reserves television advertising.

You have requested the following information:

"The current RAF television advertisement refers to Reservists as "spare time". The original campaigns referred to Reservists as "part-time".

Why was this changed? Provide copies of all documents etc. relating to the change."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am writing to confirm that we hold some information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve trawling through a large volume of material. Under the terms of Section 12 of the FOI Act, this means that we are not obliged to comply with your request.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may find it helpful to note that the decision to use the term "spare time" rather than "part time" was taken in order to clarify to potential recruits that they would be able to serve with the Reserves whilst continuing with their normal civilian employment by utilising "spare time" such as weekends or evenings. The term "part time" was causing potential recruits to reject the Reserves at an early stage of interest because they were associating it with formal fixed hours that would conflict with their full time employment.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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 investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,



Air DRes Sec 3a1