



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2015/05473

Reply to: [REDACTED]

21 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2015 in which you have requested the following information:

"Please provide me with a copy of any school/college surveys conducted since 2003 on how balanced the presentation of - and discussion around - the armed forces was during armed forces visits to schools/colleges, including the 'EdComs Careers Advice Landscape - Summary of online and tele-depth research dated Jul 13'.

Please can you also explain to me how armed forces personnel conducting visits to schools/colleges are chosen, as well as how many there are of them, and where they are based.

Lastly, what is the RAF's relationship with the charity E Trust, and what is the RAF's influence as a sponsor, particularly in terms of influence over the activities that E Trust carries out in schools?"

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request.

ROYAL NAVY

There are a number Royal Navy teams of Service personnel who conduct visits to schools/colleges. These are the Recruiting Field Force (RFF) or specialist teams such as Youth Engagement Teams, Royal Marines Visibility Teams, the 'Meet the Marines' team or the Royal Navy Presentation team.

The RFF consist of 172 Officers and Senior Ratings who operate from 49 Careers Offices situated throughout the UK. The officers are assigned to the RFF for a period of 2 years and receive specific training in recruitment. The Senior Ratings are all ex regular ratings who undergo a two day selection test and then complete a rigorous training course to qualify to become Careers Advisers.

Annex A to this letter below contains data produced by a survey of teachers' comments on schools visits conducted by these Royal Navy personnel. The survey was conducted in November 2007.

ARMY

The Army in Education (AiE) programme deploys careers advisors from the relevant local area. This can be an individual or a small team of up to 8, depending upon what material is to be delivered. Teams only visit at the specific request of schools. Typically, Personal Development Activity requires more personnel than a careers presentation. The typical rank profile is Private to Sergeant, although if Senior Careers Advisors are involved then this rises to Major.

All Careers Advisors and Senior Careers Advisors are trained to deliver AiE as part of their wider training at the Army School of Recruiting. Outreach Team members receive training in the regions.

The attached Ed Coms research which was conducted in July 2013 was designed to discover what educational establishments wanted in terms of careers guidance.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

The RAF Presentation Team (RAFPT), which is responsible for engaging with the UK public on the roles and responsibilities of the RAF, does not routinely conduct school or college visits; however visits are conducted on an ad hoc basis when specifically requested by a school or college.

The RAFPT consists of four personnel; a Squadron Leader, a Flight Lieutenant, a Warrant Officer and a Senior Aircraftman. One of the RAFPT must be aircrew while the other three can be drawn from any Ground Branch or Trade.

Any volunteers for vacant posts are reviewed first and considered as to whether they meet the stipulated criteria. If there are no volunteers, the posts are filled via strategic priority by the relevant Career Manager under normal Career Management Protocols. All nominees are interviewed for suitability by the RAFPT chain of command. All RAFPT personnel are based at RAF High Wycombe.

Turning to the final part of this FOI request, there is no connection between the RAFPT and the charity ETrust. ETrust promotes maths and science in pre-GCSE age groups as well as encouraging girls to consider non-traditional careers paths such as engineering and other technical careers.

As a partner, the RAF sponsor STEM days (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in schools and with Cadets. STEM days provide these age groups the opportunity to experience engineering challenges and provide information about STEM Career pathways. The RAFPT does not actively promote STEM, however the RAF works with ETrust in respect of their Industrial Cadet Programme which involves the RAF's STEM residential courses.

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence People Secretariat

ROYAL NAVY - TEACHERS SURVEY NOVEMBER 2007

RESPONSES	950
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How well did you feel the presentation explained the role of the RN

VERY WELL	914	96.2%
ADEQUATELY	23	2.4%
POORLY	0	0.0%
NO RESPONSE	6	0.6%

Did you feel the presentation has improved public relations for the RN

ENHANCED	893	94.0%
NO CHANGE	47	4.9%
DEGRADED	0	0.0%
NO RESPONSE	12	1.3%

How well did you feel the presentation promoted the RN as an equal opportunities employer for:

ETHNIC MINORITIES		
VERY WELL	649	68.3%
ADEQUATELY	328	34.5%
POORLY	48	5.1%
NO RESPONSE	21	2.2%
FEMALES		
VERY WELL	702	73.9%
ADEQUATELY	212	22.3%
POORLY	7	0.7%
NO RESPONSE	31	3.3%

Did you feel that the team answered the students' questions thoroughly

TOO MUCH DETAIL	14	1.5%
SUITABLY PITCHED	879	92.5%
POORLY EXPLAINED	0	0.0%
NO RESPONSE	56	5.9%

Did you feel the presentation was of the correct duration

TOO LONG	10	1.1%
CORRECT LENGTH	900	94.7%
TOO SHORT	10	1.1%
NO RESPONSE	31	3.3%

Did the presentation show a fair balance between information on job opportunities & general awareness

TOO JOB ORIENTATED	18	1.9%
GOOD BALANCE	912	96.0%
TOO GENERAL AWARENESS ORIENTATED	4	0.4%
NO RESPONSE	9	0.9%

Do you consider there is a good balance between speaking and video support

TOO MUCH VIDEO	9	0.9%
GOOD BALANCE	936	98.5%
TOO MUCH SPEAKING	1	0.1%
NO RESPONSE	11	1.2%

Do you feel the students have benefited from the presentation whether they have an interest in joining, or just as information for future tax payers

YES	943	99.3%
NO	2	0.2%
NO RESPONSE	7	0.7%

Do you feel that the content of the presentation was pitched at the correct level to accommodate the audience

TOO IN DEPTH	10	1.1%
CORRECT LEVEL	911	95.9%
TOO SIMPLISTIC	2	0.2%
NO RESPONSE	29	3.1%