



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: 2014-02264

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

8 July 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 10 June 2014 requesting information about Bristow Helicopters and the UK SAR managed transition project.

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.

I will provide a response to each part of your request in turn. In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data has been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" 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. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

Under the FOI scheme, I request the following information. For all questions, I request that the data provided is broken down into (1) RAF, RN and, (2) pilots, rear seat aircrew.

1. How many serving aircrew did Bristow Helicopters request MOD release through the UK SAR managed transition project?

Offers were made to 20 RAF Pilots and 30 RAF Rearcrew
Offers were made to 20 Royal Navy (RN) Pilots and 10 RN Rearcrew

a. Of the aircrew identified at Q1, how many have MOD agreed to release to managed transition?

20 RAF Pilots and 30 RAF Rearcrew
10 RN Pilots and 10 RN Rearcrew

b. Of the aircrew identified at Q1, how many pilots / rear seat aircrew are being denied managed transition by MOD? For what reason?

~ RAF Pilots are likely to be denied Managed Transition (MT) due to Return of Service (RoS) commitment. ~ RN Pilots will be denied MT due to RoS commitment or not having relevant qualifications.

c. Of the aircrew identified at Q1, what is the breakdown of ranks of those selected?

<i>RN Rank Pilots</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>RAF Rank Pilots</i>	<i>Number</i>
Commander	~	Squadron Leaders	10
Lieutenant Commander	~	Flight Lieutenants	20
Lieutenants	10		

<i>RN Rank - Aircrew</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>RAF Rank - Aircrew</i>	<i>Number</i>
Warrant Officer	~	Squadron Leader	~
Chief Petty Officer	~	Master Air Crewman	10
Petty Officer	10	Flight Sergeant	10
Sergeant	~	Sergeant	20

2. For each incumbent at Q.1.a, what was: (a) the original requested start date (month / year) given by Bristow Helicopters to MOD; (b) the date MOD has agreed to release the incumbent to managed transition; (c) reason for any delay in release; (d) whether the incumbent is currently employed within a SAR flight.

I am unable to provide you with a full breakdown of the information you have requested as this may identify individuals and would be a breach of the Data Protection Act. As such, some of the information you have requested has been withheld under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act.

However, Section 16 of the FOIA requires a public authority to provide applicants with reasonable advice and assistance. Therefore, I can tell you that Bristow Helicopters Limited (BHL) were advised that it would be difficult to release large numbers of qualified personnel before the military SAR capability was no longer required. RN personnel were advised of RoS commitment prior to making applications for MT; cases of RAF personnel potentially affected by a RoS were individually considered on their own merits. There is no delay in release dates for both RN and RAF personnel as release dates were mutually agreed with BHL.

<i>Release agreed RN Personnel currently employed in a SAR Flt</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Release agreed RAF Personnel currently employed in a SAR Flt</i>	<i>Number</i>
Pilots	~	Pilots	20
Rearcrew	10	Rearcrew	30

If you are not satisfied with this response or you 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, 1st 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,

[Original signed]



