



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: 2016/11490

[redacted] [by e-mail]
[redacted]

18 Jan 2017

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 25 November 2016, requesting the following information:

Can I asked what is the a) Established Strength and b) Trained Strength for all regular RAF Regiment units between July 2016 and September 2016?

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 MOD, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Section 26(1)b of the FOI Act provides that we should withhold information which would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces of the Crown or any forces cooperating with them. The Act requires that we have to carry out a public interest test in this respect to show that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh the reasons for releasing the information.

A public interest test has been conducted and it is considered that the arguments against disclosure outweigh those in favour of release, and so information which relates to regular Royal Air Force (RAF) Regiment Established and Trained Strength by RAF Regiment unit has been withheld. To divulge manpower numbers as defined by unit would indicate the RAF Regiment's capability relating to the defence and security of the RAF. This could be of use to adversaries in that it would place in the public domain information that highlights the potential strengths and weaknesses of our security forces, leaving the RAF vulnerable to attack.

However, please see listed below the overall Established and Trained Strength for the RAF Regiment:

Date	Established Strength (Liability)	Trained Strength
July 2016	2140	1950
August 2016	2140	1940
September 2016	2140	1930

Please note, in accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

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 Information Rights Compliance, Ground 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat