



# Ministry of Defence



[Redacted]  
Email: [Redacted]

12 October 2015

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2015 where you requested the following information;

*I request the following information as a Freedom of Information request.*

*By 'badge' I mean Air Cadet Communicators Badge.*

- 1) When does/did the 'new' badge system roll out?*
- 2) Why has the ACO decided to roll out the new system?*
- 3) How many badges have been handed out to date?*
- 4) (Depending on the first question) How many badges were handed out before the new system officially started and why and where were they handed out?*
- 5) If a Cadet is currently working towards their Communicators badge under the 'old' system are they able to continue with the 'old' syllabus?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that some recorded information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested is below.

- 1) The new Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) Cyber Communications syllabus (Blue and Gold Level) has been running as a pilot scheme since July 2015. The new Communications first level syllabus (Blue) was officially launched on 01 October 2015, with the remaining syllabus levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) being introduced in 2016.
- 3) Throughout the pilot programme of the new syllabus, 280 blue badges and 9 double gold cyber badges have been awarded.
- 4) The 289 badges were handed out as part of the pilot programme. The 9 double gold cyber badges were awarded at RAF Cosford, 54 of the blue badges were awarded at the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford and the remaining badges were given out at RAF Honington.

- 5) Cadets currently undergoing Communicator Badge training under the old syllabus will have one year from the issue of the complete syllabus to obtain the current award but will then be issued with a Silver badge. The third level Cyber awareness module will have to be completed before a cadet can then move onwards to "Gold Award" training.

With regard to your question 2, I can confirm that we do not hold recorded information within scope. However, in accordance with Section 16 of the FOI Act (the duty to provide advice and assistance) I can confirm that the ACO made the decision to introduce a new syllabus to include modern radio, media and cyber communications.

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 Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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,

[Original Signed]

[Redacted Signature]