



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref: 2017/00141

[REDACTED]

19 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 January 2017 requesting the following information:

'The number of people who attended the following interviews in the selection process to become an Officer, split down into those who passed the interview and those who did not, then further by the numbers who held any kind of recognised degree and those who did not:

- *AFCO Interview*
- *OASC Interview*

Please can the data extend in time as far as the FOI cost limit allows, prioritising the most recent available data and working down to older data.'

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

A search for the information requested has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that no recorded information in scope of your request is held. The reasons for this are set out below.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that the reason why we do not hold the information you have requested is because there is no 'pass/fail' standard attributed to Armed Forces' Career Office (AFCO) interviews. It is not unusual for an applicant to be interviewed at an early stage, and then advised to return months later, when it is felt they will be better prepared. After an initial AFCO interview, not all individuals return, and some of those that do return are not recommended for commissioning.

You may also find it useful to know, at Officer Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC), not all applicants Boarded proceed to the Interview Stage. Additionally, we are unable to determine from our database at which stage a potential recruit may have failed.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you refined your request, and provided a time frame for your request: for example, if you were to ask for data from the last 3 years, it is possible that we may be able to define the number of candidates who were Boarded at OASC, the number of candidates who then entered Initial Officer Training (IOT), as these individuals would have passed the Interview Stage of the Boarding process, and of those, the number entering IOT who held a degree. However, you may wish to be aware, this information may be subject to other exemptions.

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, 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,

[Original Signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat 2B1