



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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2016-01228

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19 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 26 January 2016 requesting the following information:

*'I am writing to request, under the freedom of information act, the following information with regard to between Service transfers of Royal Navy commissioned officers to the Royal Air Force between 2013 and 2016:*

*Please provide electronic copies of information and I request that it is sent by e-mail to this address.*

*To be specific I am asking for the information to be provided separately for each year:*

2013  
2014  
2015

*The information I require is as follows:*

- 1. How many Royal Navy officers transferred to the Royal Air Force in each year?*
- 2. What was their gender, Naval rank, Branch / sub specialisation of the officers that transferred? Also what Royal Air Force Branch or specialisation did they transfer into?*
- 3. What was the time each individual had to wait to transfer to the Royal Air Force after submitting a formal quest to their Commanding Officer iaw BR3 Part 7 52-4?*
- 4. What was the longest period an officer had to wait for transfer following their formal request being supported by their Commanding Officer? What rank and Branch were they?*
- 5. Please provide a reason for each transfer to the Royal Air Force that took longer then 9 months to complete following approval from their Commanding Officer iaw BR3 Part 7 52-4? (not required if this was because of delays in the Royal Air Force recruiting process).*

6. Please detail any cases where individuals had their transfer delayed by the Royal Navy due to 'Needs of the Service' and what was the delay timescale. When 'Needs of the Service' delayed a transfer to the Royal Air Force, what was the justification (Eg operations, manpower shortages etc).

7. Please detail how many Royal Navy officers submitted a Service Complaint with regard to the Royal Navy's handling / processing of their request to transfer to the Royal Air Force and what was the outcome. (eg where the complaints upheld). Please provide details of each case.

8. How many Royal Navy officers submitted a Service Complaint with regard to the Royal Navy delaying their transfer, due to Service Reasons, and what was the outcome. (eg where the complaints upheld). Please provide details of each case.

9. Did the outcome of any Service Complaint change the Royal Navy's policy of delaying or stopping a transfer due to 'Needs of the Service?' Please provide details of each case.

10. Was any Royal Navy officer's request to transfer to the Royal Air Force declined by the Royal Navy and if so, what was the reason? Please provide details of all cases.

11. Did any Royal Navy officer requesting a transfer to the Royal Air Force utilise either a Member of Parliament or legal representative in support of their case?. Please provide details of what the involvement entailed and the outcome.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by the Department. Specifically for question 1 the information is as follows:

2013 – 1  
2014 – 1  
2015 – 1

The information requested in question 2 is being withheld under exemption s40(2)(Personal Data) of the FOI Act as it is considered to be personal data relating to the applicants applying for transfer.

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met, and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes. In this instance, data has been provided for transfer application purposes only and not with the expectation that it would be made public.

For questions 3 to 11 I can confirm that there is no information held within the Department.

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, 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

