



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: 2014-01492

9 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 9 February 2015 requesting the following information:

I would like details on the number of RAF personnel who are currently entitled to claim flying pay, the annual cost of flying pay for the last four years and the number of personnel who are currently in non-flying posts who still receive flying pay.

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

For the purposes of this request we have assumed you are seeking information about Recruitment and Retention Payment (Flying) (RRP(F)), formerly Specialist Pay(Flying), which is colloquially known as Flying Pay. 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. The information you requested is shown in the tables below.

Total Annual Cost of RRP(F) for the RAF	
FY 2010/11	35,835,371
FY 2011/12	34,924,356
FY 2012/13	32,320,225
FY 2013/14	30,724,270

Total number of RAF personnel who received RRP(F) in January 2015	3380
Total number of RAF personnel in non-flying posts who received RRP(F) in January 2015	180

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 round methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to know that RRP is paid to Armed Forces personnel to assist with specific recruitment or retention requirements within particular cadres. It is paid to personnel in eligible posts who meet the specialist training or qualification criteria laid down in regulations and is in addition to their military salary and is non-pensionable. Eligible posts can be either direct RRP posts – requiring the individual to undertake duties utilising their particular specialism – or RRP-related posts – requiring utilisation of practitioner knowledge and expertise related to same specialism. Each RRP category is reviewed annually and can be reduced in value or removed altogether if no longer deemed necessary.

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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat