



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: 2015-00540

email: [REDACTED]

22 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

With regards to your email dated 13 January 2015 requesting the following information:

I would be grateful if you would provide statistics regarding the applicants for commissioning, over the last 5 years, into the RAF Regiment. Specifically, I would be grateful for the following data:

- 1. The number of Direct Entrant applicants from civilians; the number boarded and the intake number.*
- 2. The number of applicants from other ranks within the RAF Regiment; the number boarded and the intake number.*

I would also be grateful if you would provide statistics regarding the RAF Regiment (RAF Officers); specifically:

- 1. The percentage chance of reaching further service in the both branches (shown separately) for new entrants (RAF Officers) and for those who have completed 5 years service.*
- 2. The percentage chance of promotion to further ranks and average LoS on promotion to these ranks. As previously could you also provide the percentage chance of promotion between ranks having already achieved the previous rank.*
- 3. The average length of service in both branches (shown separately - I think that this is referred to as Return of Service).*

This has been considered to be a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. 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.

Please find attached two documents; the first addresses your questions regarding commissioning, and the second, addresses the three questions relating to length of service.

I would like to take this opportunity to refer you to the following link:

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

The link takes you to guidance provided by the Information Commissioner on Section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 concerns requests where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit (24 hours). It also describes how requests received within a specified time period can be aggregated. While this particular request has not exceeded the appropriate limit, it has taken approximately 16 working hours to compile the data requested. Requests on related subject matter received from your organisation on 17 November and 4 December 2014, brings the total number of hours spent to 22 hours.

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Air Command Secretariat

1. Numbers of Direct Entrant applicants for Regiment Officer:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Applicants	625	360	692	677	382
Boarded	39	38	66	75	59
Intakes	11	12	28	29	8

Caveat: Many applicants who applied in 2014 are still being processed. Figures supplied are as of 20 Jan 2015. Data is based on those who have expressed a preference for Officer Selection Board (Regiment).

2. Numbers of applicants for Regiment Officer from Other Ranks within the RAF Regiment:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Applicants	18	5	6	4	8
Boarded	8	2	4	3	5
Intakes	4	2	3	2	1

Caveat: Many applicants who applied in 2014 are still being processed. Figures supplied are as of 20 Jan 2015. The fields for Previous Service Branch/Trade and Rank Achieved are free text; therefore the data is only as accurate as the data input.