



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref: 2016/12739

[REDACTED]

19 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2016 requesting the following information:

'Please could you provide me with information regarding the opportunities available as a Firefighter Officer in the RAF. Specifically, I would like to know:

- 1. The number of current established posts at fg off, flt lt and sqn ldr level*
- 2. The current strength*
- 3. The percentage of officers attaining the rank of sqn ldr*
- 4. The percentage of those successfully applying for a commission from the ranks.'*

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 some information in scope of your request is held. For clarity, I will answer each of your questions in turn.

The number of current established posts at Flying Officer (Fg Off) is 0.

The number of current established posts at Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) is 10.

The number of current established posts at Squadron Leader (Sqn Ldr) is ~.

The current strength of Firefighter Officers in the Royal Air Force (RAF) is 10 Flight Operations (Fire) Officers.

The percentage of Officers attaining the rank of Squadron Leader is information not held.

The percentage of those successfully applying for a commission from the ranks is information not held.

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, 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 rounding 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 helpful to know, we do not hold recorded information on percentages. However, if you provided the MOD with a timeline for your request, we may be able to provide the number of Officers attaining the rank of Squadron Leader, and the number of individuals who successfully applied for a commission from the ranks, so that you may be able to work out the percentage. 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