



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref 2015 03519

23 April 2015

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 30 March 2015, requesting the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I respectfully request information regarding the No3 (Squadron Leader to Wing Commander) Combined Selection Board (CSB), in particular officer candidates from the Air Battle Management (ABM) Branch of the RAF. The information I require is as follows for the Mar 2015 CSB:

1. The number of ABM Branch sqn ldrs serving at the time of the No3 CSB?
2. The percentage of ABM Branch sqn ldrs, aged 45 or over, at the time of the 2015 No 3 CSB?
3. The number of ABM Branch sqn ldrs presented to the No3 CSB?
4. The number of ABM Branch sqn ldrs aged 45 or over presented to the NO3 CSB
5. The number of ABM Branch sqn ldrs provisionally selected for promotion to wg cdr
6. The number of those sqn ldrs, aged 45 or over at the time of the No3 CSB, who have been selected, and those who may be selected, for promotion to wg cdr, prior to the No3 CSB in 2016?
7. The average age of the No3 CSB ABM Branch candidates?
8. The average age of the No3 CSB ABM Branch sqn ldrs selected for promotion?
9. The seniority in rank years, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number, of those ABM Branch sqn ldrs presented to the No3 CSB?
10. The seniority in rank years, of the ABM Branch sqn ldrs presented to the No3 CSB, in ascending order of merit?
11. The ages of the ABM Branch sqn ldrs presented to the No3 CSB?
12. The ages of the ABM Branch sqn ldrs, presented to the No3 CSB, in ascending order of merit?

13. The same information requested in points 1-12 above, for the No3 CSB for 2013 and 2014?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under 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.

Information relating to questions 9, 10, 11 and 12, has been withheld. This information is exempt from release under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as it is personal data. Section 40 of the Act is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The attached document contains the information you requested in questions 1 - 8, and 13. Under section 16 of the FOI Act, I can advise that all personnel presented to, and scored on the Board are eligible for promotion should there be a requirement. However, not all those presented to the Board will be promoted. Additional promotions above the initially agreed number are considered on a case-by-case basis with the person highest on the Merit Order List considered first for any additional promotions.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded to the nearest 10, where "0" 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. Percentages have been calculated from unrounded data.

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 this office 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, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

HQ Air Command
Secretariat 2a