



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: FOI2015/05773

24 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 June 2015, and your subsequent clarification, requesting the following information:

What was the personnel size of each of the regular RAF Regiments in May 2010 and what is the current size/establishment as of May 2015. Can you list the sub-units/flights in the following regiments: 1, 2(II), 15, 26, 27, 34, 51 and 63 that will be in Future Force 2020?

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

For the purpose of this FOI request, when referring to the regular 'RAF Regiments' and the 'sub-units/flights of regiments', I will assume that you are referring to the Squadrons within the RAF Regiment.

Section 26(1)b of the FOI Act provides that we should withhold information which would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces of the Crown or any forces cooperating with them. The Act requires that we have to carry out a public interest test (PIT) in this respect to show that the reasons for withholding the information outweigh the reasons for releasing the information.

A public interest test has been conducted and it is considered that the arguments against disclosure outweigh those in favour of release, and so information which relates to past and present Royal Air Force (RAF) Regiment capability has been withheld. Furthermore, to divulge manpower numbers and lists of sub units in Future Force 2020 would indicate the RAF Regiment's capability relating to the defence and security of the RAF, and therefore its assets such as aircraft, equipment and personnel deployed on operations. This could be of use to adversaries in that it would place in the public domain information that highlights the potential strengths and weaknesses of our deployed security forces, leaving the RAF vulnerable to attack. Therefore, this has also been withheld.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (advice and assistance) you may find it useful to know that the RAF Regiment is made up of some 2110 personnel comprising Gunners and Regiment Officers. The following link provides a summary of the history of the squadrons referred to in your request, including operations they were involved in:

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafrement/squadrons/>

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 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 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

Secretariat 2a
HQ Air Command