



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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2016-01582

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[REDACTED]  
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19 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 February 2016 requesting the following information on:

*'How many officers in the Royal Navy have an ongoing formal request to transfer to the Royal Air Force which is still being processed by Navy Command Headquarters? Additionally:*

*What is the rank and branch / sub specialisation of any officer currently awaiting approval to transfer and what Royal Air Force Branch are they looking to join?*

*What was the date they submitted their formal transfer request to their Commanding Officer / Navy Command Headquarters?*

*Have any of these officers had approval, by Navy Command Headquarters, to transfer to the Royal Air Force and a date of joining the new Service agreed? If there are any cases, what is the timescale from submitting their formal request to the date they will join the Royal Air Force?'*

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested and taking your questions in order:

Q1. How many officers in the Royal Navy have an ongoing formal request to transfer to the Royal Air Force which is still being processed by Navy Command Headquarters?

A1. 2

The information requested in questions 2, 3 & 4 is being withheld under exemption s40(2)(Personal Data) of the FOI Act. Firstly as it is considered to be personal data relating to the applicants applying for transfer and secondly due to the low numbers involved and the possibility of other information becoming available it may prove possible in the future to identify the personnel concerned.

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met, and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes. In this instance, data has been provided for transfer application purposes only and not with the expectation that it would be made public.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section