



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

13 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2015 requesting the following information:

- a) As 28 Sqn had a fully approved indoor range, plus appropriate weapons, and has a range qualified officer on its strength why has this aspect of Cadet training been allowed to stand unused for over 12 months.*
- b) On who's authority was the range put out of use, and under what authority from HQAC was this enacted*
- c) Why was the Civilian Chairman not appraised of any decision to cease shooting specific to 28 Sqn, and consulted over the apparent redundancy of squadron assets.*
- d) Under who's authority did OC 28 Sqn not respond to a perfectly legitimate request and fail to update the Committee on any developments*
- e) Why is it apparent that West Mercian Wing administration is able to dictate and influence the activities at RAF Shawbury and 28 sqn specifically, which has resulted in a decline in the variety of Cadet training activities in general.*

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 some information in scope of your request is held. I can confirm that information is held to answer questions a and b. However, the MOD does not hold recorded information on the remaining questions.

Following a number of issues relating to the use of Locally Purchased Weapons (LPW) all shooting activity with LPWs was suspended by the Small Arms School Corps in November 2014. This suspension was lifted centrally in January 2015. However, the Regional Commandant for Wales and West Region, in his capacity as Duty Risk Holder, took the decision to keep the ban in place whilst further considering the risk associated with this activity. On 14 September 2015 Wales and West Region instigated an audit of LPW holdings with the aim of getting Cadets back to shooting activity as soon as possible.

You may find it useful to know that Section 1 of the FOIA gives an applicant the right to recorded information held by public authorities at the time of the request is made and does

not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless the recorded information is held.

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,

[Original signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat
Air Command