



Ministry
of Defence

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

Our Ref: FOI2017/05724

30 June 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of the 6 June 2017 about the RAF police (SIB) investigation known as Operation Overfoot.

You asked:

Could you please supply details of the RAF Police (SIIB) investigation known as 'Operation Overfoot' that we are informed was an investigation into Historic Child Sex Abuse ('child' referring to Military Personnel under the age of 18 years) that occurred on Overseas Bases of HM Armed Forces.

Please break down as follows:

The remit of Operation Overfoot.

Which Branches of the Military Police were involved and over what duration.

The numbers of alleged victims involved.

The numbers of alleged abusers involved.

The Overseas Bases involved.

The dates of the alleged abuse(s) taking place.

Whether such cases were passed onto Operation Hydrant (NPCC oversight) at any point.

Details of any Military or Civilian Legal Prosecutions that resulted including which Courts dealt with any prosecutions.

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

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However, some of the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided at Section 41(1) (a) and (b) and some falls within the qualified exemption at Section 30 (1) and (2) of the FOI Act.

Below is the information, broken down as requested:

The remit of Operation Overfoot

Operation Overfoot is the criminal investigation of non-recent sexual offences/child abuse, which occurred more than 12 months ago and involved RAF personnel, their dependants or MOD Civilians, at UK overseas bases.

Which Branches of the Military Police were involved and over what duration.

RAF Police, since July 2014.

The numbers of alleged victims involved.

Section 30(2) (a) (i) and (ii) applied.

The numbers of alleged abusers involved.

Section 30(1) (a), (b) and (c) applied

The Overseas Bases involved.

British Forces Germany (BFG), Cyprus, Hong Kong and the Netherlands to date.

The dates of the alleged abuse(s) taking place.

Section 41(1) (a) and (b) applied.

Whether such cases were passed onto Operation Hydrant (NPCC oversight) at any point.

Yes.

Details of any Military or Civilian Legal Prosecutions that resulted including which Courts dealt with any prosecutions.

There have been five Military prosecutions, Military Court Centres at Bulford, Colchester and Catterick dealt with these.

Section 30(1) and (2) of the FOI Act exemption has been applied because the information requested relates to criminal investigations and related proceedings conducted by public authorities. Section 30(1) and (2) of the FOI Act is a qualified exemption and subject to a public interest test, which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The balance of the public interest test concluded that whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence that the MOD has taken appropriate actions, it could hamper/jeopardise any further investigations.

Section 41(1) (a) and (b) has been applied in order to protect personal information which if released would constitute a breach of confidence. Section 41 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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, 2nd 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



HQ Air Secretariat