



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: 2017/01425

[REDACTED]

20 February 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 23 January 2017, which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

In your e-mail you requested the following:

*I would be grateful if you could provide information regarding RAF Weapon Systems Operators (Crewman) over the last 3 years (2013-2016) as follows:*

- Please could you provide the number of WSOp(Cmn) in the rank of Sgt who have successfully applied for an extension of service beyond 22 years. Please could you also indicate the number who were unsuccessful.*
- Please could you provide the number of Sgts Flt Sgts and WO's (in separate ranks) on the Professional Aviator Spine (PAS) having served for 22 years or more.*

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

With regard to your first query, information relating to the number of WSOp(Cmn) who successfully applied for an extension of service beyond 22 years is not held.

Under Section 16 (the duty to provide advice and assistance), unlike personnel in other trades, personnel in the WSOp trade do not apply individually for an extension to their service. Rather, an annual Re-engagement Board is held, where all eligible personnel are considered for further service.

With regard to your second query, relating to the number of WSOp(Cmn) on Professional Aviator Spine (PAS), please see the table below. Please note that the data relates to WSOp(Cmn) who have served for 22 years or more.

Sergeant	~
Flight Sergeant	40
Master Aircrew (Warrant Officer)	80

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 and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5.

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 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**, Ground 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,

Air Command Secretariat