



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2017/08011

Reply to: [REDACTED]

13 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2017 requesting the following information:

"Please could you supply the number, or close estimate, of pupils (in state and independent schools) currently in the Combined Cadet Forces.

Could you also supply this number, or close estimate, of pupils in the Combined Cadet Forces in state and independent schools, for the following academic/school calendar years:

2010-2011

2011-2012

2012-2013

2013-2014

2014-2015

2015-2016"

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

I can advise you that following a search of our records, I have established that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not collect or publish data on the number of cadets in state or independent schools. However, we do publish the MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces Statistics which provide analysis of the figures as at 1 April each year. The latest national statistics document is available at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/mod-sponsored-cadet-forces-statistics-1-april2017>

You will wish to note that we report the strength of the Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) by gender and age each year. The information for these statistics is derived from dynamic Management Information Systems, meaning the information is fluid and only accurate at the time it is taken. This is why we only report numbers on 1 April each year so they can be used for comparisons and trends.

Although we cannot provide historic data for CCF pupils in state and independent schools, under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance), I can advise that as at 5 September 2017 there were 9,550 pupils in state schools and 30,510 pupils in independent schools who are cadets in the Combined Cadet Forces. Please note that these figures relate only to a specific query for the specified date in relation to this FOI request.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, disclosure control has been applied to the figures provided herewith. Disclosure control is necessary when presenting any statistical or numeric information to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals, to protect commercially sensitive information, or where sharing the statistics may pose a threat to security.

The figures provided in this response have been rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers ending in a '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. For example; a value of '25' would be rounded down to '20' and a value of '15' would be rounded up to '20'.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI