



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref: 2018/08661



26 July 2018

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 June 2018, 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 like to know how many Air Cadets went solo last year, and how much the VGS budget is?"

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

In Financial Year 2017/2018, 96 cadets 'went solo'. Sixteen of these cadets flew solo in a glider for the first time and 80 cadets undertook their first solo powered flying sorties. For RAF Air Cadets, the term 'went solo' is defined as a first or maiden solo flight.

No information is held regarding how much the VGS budget is. This is because there is no 'ringfenced' budget aligned to the Volunteer Gliding School (VGS).

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, the duty to provide advice and assistance, it may be helpful if I explain that activities within the RAF Air Cadets are funded from an overall budget from where each Cadet Squadron bids for funding for a specific activity, such as gliding. This allows for more appropriate allocation of funding depending on the requirement at the time. Additionally, some VGS costs are covered as part of a larger contract. Therefore, it is not possible to identify a specific VGS budget or 'break-out' VGS costs from overarching delivery contracts that may not be directly linked to RAF Air Cadets.

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,

Air Command Secretariat