



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2018/09020

[REDACTED]

7 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 8 July 2018 requesting the following information:

Please can you provide the following specific information regarding Flt Lt (Name supplied) during the period 2003 – 2006 ("the Relevant Period"):

- 1. Confirmation of any and all disciplinary measures taken by the RAF against the Pilot.*
- 2. Confirmation of any and all performance measures taken by the RAF against the Pilot.*
- 3. Confirmation as to whether at any time during the Relevant Period the Pilot was suspended from flying duties.*
- 4. Please provide details of the any and all disciplinary/performance measures taken against the Pilot during the Relevant Period?*
- 5. Please provide details of the reason/rationale for any disciplinary/performance measures taken against the Pilot during the Relevant Period?*
- 6. Please provide details of the circumstances leading to any disciplinary/performance measures taken against the Pilot during the Relevant Period?*
- 7. Please provide dates during which any disciplinary/performance measures taken against the Pilot during the Relevant Period were effective?*
- 8. Please advise as whether documentary evidence of any disciplinary/performance measures taken against the Pilot during the Relevant Period are retained by the RAF?*
- 9. Please advise as where such documentary evidence is held?*

More generically, please provide the following information:

- 1. Confirmation of whether disciplinary records for serving officers in the RAF are retained.*
- 2. And if so, in what format and for how long (including but not limited to the period of time after leaving the armed forces for whatever reason).*
- 3. Confirmation of whether performance records for serving officers in the RAF are retained.*
- 4. And if so, in what format and for how long (including but not limited to the period of time after leaving the armed forces for whatever reason).*
- 5. Confirmation of whether medical records for serving officers in the RAF are retained.*
- 6. And if so, in what format and for how long (including but not limited to the period of time after leaving the armed forces for whatever reason).*
- 7. Confirmation of whether psychiatric/psychological reports about serving officers in the RAF are retained.*
- 8. And if so, in what format and for how long (including but not limited to the period of time after leaving the armed forces for whatever reason).*

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.

With regards to the specific information you requested about a named individual, under Section 40(5) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. Were any information held it would be exempt from disclosure as it constitutes the personal data of third parties under the Data Protection Act 2018. It would be unfair and unlawful to disclose this type of information without the consent of the individual. Section 40(5) is an absolute exemption and not subject to public interest testing.

And with regards to the more generic questions 1 to 8, I will answer those in order.

Questions 1 to 4

Currently, disciplinary records and annual reports for serving officers in the RAF are permanently retained in an electronic format.

In addition to the annual reports, performance records relating to aircrew performance in the air, are also retained in both electronic and paper formats. The paper records are archived when someone leaves the Service.

Access to all historic data is restricted with further restrictions put in place once someone has left the Service.

Questions 5 to 8

Medical records and psychiatric/psychological reports are retained for serving RAF officers. These records are kept in various formats, electronic, hardcopy and film stock (traditional x-rays). How long these records are kept will depend on the type and speciality of the medical record or psychiatric/psychological reports.

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.gov.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,


HQ Air Command Secretariat