



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2018/13034

13 Nov 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 October requesting the following information:

“Could you supply the number of ethnic minority aircrew currently serving in the Royal Air Force, broken down into the most granular detail you hold (Black, Asian, Mixed, other).

Can you please break these numbers down into type of aircrew - Pilots, Weapons Systems Operators, Weapons Systems Officers, WSO (Linguist).

Can you also differentiate between regular and reserve numbers.”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found at annex A, RAF Regular and RAF Reserves Aircrew by Ethnicity as at 1 September 2018.

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

RAF Regular¹ and RAF Reserves² Aircrew by Ethnicity as at 1 September 2018

RAF Regular Ethnicity	PILOT	Weapon Systems Officer					NCA					Grand Total
		WSO(Air Electronics)	WSO(Air Engineer)	WSO(Crewman)	WSO(Navigator)	WSO	WSOp(A Eng)	WSOp(Crew)	WSOp(EW/Acc)	WSOp(L)	WSOp Not Known	
Any Chinese Background	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian Indian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Caribbean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed Asian and White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed Black African and White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed Black Caribbean and White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Black Background	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Ethnic Background	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Mixed Ethnic Background	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	1470	50	10	40	365	-	30	440	190	40	10	2660
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Declined to Declare	85	-	-	-	15	-	-	20	-	-	-	140
Grand Total	1570	60	10	50	383	-	35	470	200	45	10	2830

¹ RAF Regular strength includes all trained regular personnel and excludes Full time reserve service, volunteer reserve and mobilised reserves.
 Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training

RAF Reserves Ethnicity	PILOT	Weapon Systems Officer					NCA					Grand Total
		WSO(Air Electronics)	WSO(Air Engineer)	WSO(Crewman)	WSO(Navigator)	WSO	WSOp(A Eng)	WSOp(Crew)	WSOp(EW/Acc)	WSOp(L)	WSOp Not Known	
Any Chinese Background	~	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	~
Asian Indian	~	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	~
Other Ethnic Background	~	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	~
White	145	~	~	~	60	~	5	15	20	~	-	270
No Value	~	-	-	-	~	-	-	-	-	-	-	~
Declined to Declare	10	-	-	-	~	-	-	~	-	-	-	20
Grand Total	160	~	~	~	70	~	5	20	20	~	-	290

² RAF Reserve strength includes all trained RAFR and RAuxAF Full Time Reserves Service, Volunteer Reserves, Additional Duty Commitment, Sponsored Reserves, High Readiness Reserves and Mobilised Reserves.

Notes:

a. As Ethnicity is a protected characteristic, 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 5, where "-" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5.