



Ministry
of Defence

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

Our Ref: 2019-00663

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

2 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2019 requesting the following information:

*How many military pilot trainees are holding in the military flying training pipeline in total?
What is the breakdown by service: Navy, Army, RAF?*

*How many military pilot trainees are holding in the military flying training pipeline for
Elementary Flying Training post initial officer training?
What is the breakdown by service: Navy, Army, RAF?*

*How many military pilot trainees are holding in the military flying training pipeline for Fast
Jet Flying Training?*

*How many military pilot trainees are holding in the military flying training pipeline for Multi
Engine Flying Training?*

*How many military pilot trainees are holding in the military flying training pipeline for
Rotary Wing Flying Training?
What is the breakdown by service: Navy, Army, RAF?*

*What is the current average length of holding period between Elementary and Fast Jet
Flying Training?*

*What is the current average length of holding period between Elementary and Multi
Engine Flying Training?*

*What is the current average length of holding period between Elementary and Rotary
Wing Flying Training?*

*What is the current estimated time in months including holding periods for an RAF officer
currently between graduating from Initial Officer Training and reaching a Fast Jet
Operational Conversion Unit?*

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 information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested for questions 1-8 is contained in the tables below. This data is correct as at 22 January 2019.

Service	Number of pilot trainees holding in the military flying training pipeline	Number of pilot trainees holding in the military flying training pipeline for Elementary Flying Training Post IOT	Number of pilot trainees holding in the military flying training pipeline for Fast Jet Flying Training	Number of pilot trainees holding in the military flying training pipeline for Multi Engine Flying Training	Number of pilot trainees holding in the military flying training pipeline for Rotary Wing Flying Training
Royal Navy	70	30	10	0	30
Army	40	10	N/A	N/A	20
RAF	240	150	30	10	30

Service	Average length of holding period between Elementary Flying Training and Fast Jet	Average length of holding period between Elementary Flying Training and Multi Engine Pilot Training	Average length of holding period between Elementary Flying Training and Rotary Wing Flying Training
Royal Navy	40 weeks	N/A	40 weeks
Army	N/A	N/A	27 weeks
RAF	58 weeks	72 weeks	112 weeks

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data has been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

The current estimated time for an RAF officer graduating from Initial Officer Training and reaching a Fast Jet Operational Conversion Unit is upto 90 months.

Under section 16 - advice and assistance - of the FOIA I can advise you the RAF have several measures in place to increase the throughput of trainee pilots. There have always been planned holds in the flying training pipeline to ensure all courses are fully utilised.

Most trainee pilots will experience a hold at the start of their career before commencing flying training. Officers on hold are placed in required and essential roles within the RAF, with an aim to expand their skills in other areas of RAF business.

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). 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 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,

[Original signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat [REDACTED]