



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2020/00701



10 February 2020

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 17 January 2020 requesting the following information:

*"1) Who has succeeded Air Commodore N T Bradshaw as Assistant Chief of Staff Media & Communications in November 2019?"*

*With regards to today's London Gazette <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/62888/data.pdf>,*

*2) Is the appointment of Assistant Chief of Air Staff Plans a new appointment?"*

*3) What are the responsibilities of this appointment?"*

*4) Who has replaced AVM L S Taylor as Head Rapid Capabilities Office?"*

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.

- 1) The process for recruiting the replacement for Air Commodore N T Bradshaw is currently ongoing. Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to know that this post has now been civilianised.
- 2) Please note that Section 1 of the FOIA gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time that the request was made. It does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations nor give opinions unless they are held on record. However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I can inform you that the Assistant Chief of Air Staff Plans is a new position.
- 3) The following responsibilities of the role have been extracted from the recent Job Advert for the role of Assistant Chief of Air Staff Plans:

*"1. As Design Authority (DA) for the Air Command Operating Model, ensure intra-Top Level Budget (TLB) alignment and coherence with the Defence Operating Model.*

*2. As DA for the Air Command Operating Model, ensure that the senior board structure is configured for optimal strategic decision-making through formal reviews of outputs and Terms of Reference (TORs).*

3. *Ensure alignment of the MOD Functional Leadership Strategy with Air TLB business functions.*
4. *Provide Business Information /Management Information to the Executive Committee and Air Force Main Board to enable strategic decision-making.*
5. *Co-Chair the People Planning Group and the Balance of Investment to ensure independent assurance and empowered 2\* decision-making and, where necessary, elevate any issues or conflicts to 3\* level.*
6. *Ensure Roles, Responsibilities, Authorities and Accountabilities for all HQ Air Command 1\*s and above are reviewed on a formal basis to maintain alignment with HQ Air Command outputs.*
7. *As the Head Office focal point for Air TLB business functions (aligned with DRes role as Chief Finance Officer), ensure iterative development and maintenance of a strategic TLB stakeholder map and communications plan.*
8. *Develop RAF Planning Assumptions, the RAF Command Plan and assure Strategy execution through robust Performance & Risk Reporting.*
9. *Design, establish and operate a fully integrated Strategic Portfolio Office independent from delivery of programmes, projects and financial planning through maintenance of a pan-Air TLB portfolio of programmes and establishment of an operating model that includes a range of sub-Portfolio Offices.*
10. *Ensure coherence of HQ Air Command change activity.”*

4) Air Vice-Marshal Taylor's replacement is yet to be appointed.

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](mailto: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 take your complaint 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 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 Command Secretariat

