



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2020/04654

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19 May 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 April 2020 requesting the following information:

“The publicised minutes of the Air Cadet Management Board (ACMB) meeting for 25/6 September 2019, confirm that the current incumbent was nominated to take over the position of RAFAC Corps Chairman from July 2019.

Can you provide the following clarification:

- 1) *When the position of Corps Chairman was created*
- 2) *Whether it is a voluntary or salaried appointment*
- 3) *whether the appointee is a member of the ACMB, and in what capacity*
- 4) *whether the position is directly controlled by the ACMB, the Commandant Air Cadets, AOC 22 Group, or the Air Cadet Council*
- 5) *Whether this appointment fits within the prescribed Civilian support pillar, and what level of executive power is aligned to that position.*
- 6) *Why the position is not identified in ACP11*
- 7) *What authority the position holds in relation to implementation of, and compliance with, Charity Law.”*

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 (MoD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Please note that in the below ‘pillar’ refers to a section of the organisation.

- 1) *When the position of Corps Chairman was created*

The position of Corps Chairman was created in the second half of 2018.

- 2) *Whether it is a voluntary or salaried appointment*

The position of Corps Chairman is a voluntary appointment.

- 3) *Whether the appointee is a member of the ACMB, and in what capacity*

The Corps Chairman is a member of the Air Cadet Management Board (ACMB) as the senior representative of the Air Cadet's Civilian Committee to inform and support the ACMB and senior staffs.

- 4) *Whether the position is directly controlled by the ACMB, the Commandant Air Cadets, AOC 22 Group, or the Air Cadet Council.*

The position is not directly controlled by the ACMB, the Commandant Air Cadets, Air Office Commanding (AOC) 22 Group or the Air Cadet Council.

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to know that the Corps Chairman, as the representative of the Civilian Committee is independent of the uniformed part of the organisation. In the event that the Corps Chairman feels that an issue needs to be addressed by a higher authority, the Corps Chairman has access to AOC 22 Group, Deputy Commander Operations or Chief of the Air Staff.

- 5) *Whether this appointment fits within the prescribed Civilian support pillar, and what level of executive power is aligned to that position.*

The appointment is part of the Civilian Committee support pillar but has no executive authority other than to inform and cascade policy decisions which may impact on the civilian pillar.

- 6) *Why the position is not identified in ACP11*

Air Cadet Publication 11 is currently under review and the post of Corps Chairman will be reflected in the updated version.

- 7) *What authority the position holds in relation to implementation of, and compliance with, Charity Law.*

The Corps Chairman, as with all members of the Civilian Committee, are trustees appointed to safeguard their respective funds and are expected to have a general understanding of charity law and the excepted status of RAFAC non-public funds. For example, the Corps Chairman will ensure that the requisite returns are made in accordance with Charity Commission requirements. In the event an issue arises that the Corps Chairman and their senior colleagues require assistance with any aspect of compliance with charity law, RAFAC Headquarters will provide the necessary support and, if required, seek appropriate legal advice from the Ministry of Defence.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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 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