



# Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2020/08799

[REDACTED]

19 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 July 2020 asking about Royal Navy (RN) Observers serving on Poseidon. Specifically, you requested the following information:

- "- Are RN Observers getting streamed to P8 Poseidon?"*
- If so, how many RN Observers are currently posted to work on the P8 Poseidon?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information you requested, and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is not held.

However, under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that although there are currently no RN Observers posted to Poseidon, there is a planned RAF-RN personnel exchange programme that will see experienced RN Observers from the Merlin helicopter fleet posted to the Poseidon fleet into Tactical Coordinator roles. Similarly, there will be RN Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircrewmen posted to the Poseidon fleet into Acoustic Operator roles. The Poseidon is an RAF asset and with the exception of exchange personnel, there are currently no plans to develop and stream dedicated RN personnel for the Poseidon fleet. You may also wish to note the RN has an existing exchange with the US Navy with a Observer employed on P8 Poseidon. This exchange is due to complete in six months time.

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](mailto: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



Secretariat 3a1  
Air Command