



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2020/11781

[REDACTED]

18 November 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 October 2020 requesting the following information:

*“How many people actively serve or have served in the RAF with a food allergy and are they fit for service”*

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.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, numbers fewer than five are not released to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities.

Since the introduction of the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) in 2007, 704 Royal Air Force (RAF) regular personnel were recorded as having a food allergy. Fewer than 5 of these personnel were medically discharged with a principal cause of a food allergy. DMICP is a live data source and extracted data is correct as of 3 November 2020. The Ministry of Defence only holds information on food allergies which have a medical effect on the individual. Information on minor allergies which do not have a medical effect will not be recorded in most instances. ‘Fit for service’ has been interpreted as personnel who were not medically discharged, and the data includes current and former RAF personnel with a record on DMICP.

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](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