



**Ministry  
of Defence**

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

**Ref: FOI2021/03851**

[REDACTED]

**10 May 2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 April 2021 requesting the following information:

*"Could you please advise as to:*

*The number of and proportion of applicants to join the RAF as an officer who had a degree and went on to successfully complete IOTC.*

*The number and proportion of those applicants who were prospective pilots, who went on to successfully complete IOTC, graduating as pilot.*

*The average age of the individuals that successfully enlisted to the RAF as pilot.*

*If this request is unclear could I request that you please come back to me soonest so that I may adjust accordingly?"*

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, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Data sets in this request have been provided for financial years 2012/13 to 2018/19.

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. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

In response to question 1 and 2, the Royal Air Force (RAF) does not hold recorded data for the Financial Years 2012/13, and the first half of Financial year 2013/14 for the number of cadets who enter and pass the Initial Officer Training Course (IOTC).

- 1) The number of and proportion of applicants to join the RAF as an officer who had a degree and went on to successfully complete IOTC.

Financial Years	Applicants with a degree	Number of Officer Cadets with a degree who started IOTC	Number of Officer Cadets who completed the IOTC
2012/13	900	N/A	N/A
2013/14	2060	60	60
2014/15	2000	190	190
2015/16	1820	180	170
2016/17	2160	270	260
2017/18	1360	260	240
2018/19	2630	350	340
2019/20	2420	290	280*

\*This figure includes cadets currently in training, as they have not withdrawn from their courses and are still expected to graduate.

Data only includes those who have opted to self-declare that they have a degree level qualification and is for overall passes for the IOTC within their training cohorts.

- 2) The number and proportion of those applicants who were prospective pilots, who went on to successfully complete IOTC, graduating as pilot.

The numbers of pilot cadets who entered and completed IOTC in the financial years 2012/13 to 2019/20, is as follows:

Financial Years	Prospective pilots who started the IOTC	Number of prospective pilots who completed the IOTC
2013/14	20	20
2014/15	50	50
2015/16	60	60
2016/17	110	110
2017/18	100	100
2018/19	90	90
2019/20	30	30

Data is for overall passes for the IOTC within their training cohorts.

- 3) The average age of the individuals that successfully enlisted to the RAF as pilot.

The average age of individuals that successfully enlisted into the RAF as a pilot is 23 years and 4 months.

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