



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2021/03638

[REDACTED]

4 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 February 2021 requesting the following information:

*"I would be grateful if you could assist me with DS (Air) statistics for a matter I am dealing with, the details of which are:*

*Trade: RAF Pilot  
Length of service: New Entrant*

*I wonder if you are able to provide me with pertinent statistics in this matter within your cost limits. In particular, I am interested in figures relating to:*

- How many people apply to join the RAF as commissioned aircrew each year recruiting year (sic) and how many of them are subsequently invited to join OASC?*
- The numbers and % of those pilot applicants that were invited to OASC that went on to successfully complete IOTC.*
- The numbers/% of those applicants then went on to successfully complete phase I specialist flying training:*
  - fast jet*
  - multi-engine*
  - rotary.*

*I trust the above is clear, however, should you require any further detail or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me."*

In your further correspondence of 25 March 2021, in response to our request for you to clarify your question, you requested the following:

*"I would be grateful if you could assist me with DS (Air) statistics for a matter I am dealing with, the details of which are:*

**Trade: RAF Pilot**  
**Length of service: New Entrant**

*I wonder if you are able to provide me with pertinent statistics in this matter within your cost limits. In particular, I am interested in figures relating to:*

- *How many people apply to join the RAF as a pilot each year recruiting year and how many of them are subsequently invited to join OASC?*
- *The numbers and % of those pilot applicants that were invited to OASC that went on to successfully complete IOTC.*
- *The numbers/% of those applicants then went on to successfully complete phase I specialist flying training:*
  - *fast jet*
  - *multi-engine*
  - *rotary.*

*I trust the above is clear, however, should you require any further detail or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me."*

On 1 April in response to our letter of the same day, you clarified with:

*"I am interested in the 7 years span of data from 2012/13 to 2019/20."*

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.

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.

- 1) How many people apply to join the RAF as a pilot each year recruiting year and how many of them are subsequently invited to join OASC?

The total number of applications to become a Regular Pilot and how many attended the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) for the financial years 2012/13 to 2019/20, is as follows.

	Financial Years							
Regular Pilots	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Applications	180	1400	1720	2040	2390	1640	2860	2800
Attended OASC	60	460	140	190	260	140	250	140

**Caveats:**

1. Applications are for applications submitted in the given financial year.
2. Attended OASC only includes applications that applied in the given financial year and attended an OASC event.

- 2) The numbers and % of those pilot applicants that were invited to OASC that went on to successfully complete IOTC.

The numbers of pilot cadets who entered and completed Initial Officer Training (IOT) in the financial years 2012/13 to 2019/20, is as follows:

Financial Years	Prospective pilots who started IOT	Number of prospective pilots who completed IOT
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 not recorded for the financial year 2012/13, and the first half of financial year 2013/14. Data is for overall passes for the IOT courses within their training cohorts.

- 3) The numbers/% of those applicants then went on to successfully complete phase I specialist flying training for fast jet, multi-engine and rotary aircraft.

Please be advised that under the FOIA a Public Authority is not required to create new information to respond to requests. The MOD holds data that could be used to produce information to answer the request. However, to produce the information based on this data would require significant data manipulation including complex analysis and sophisticated judgement to the extent that it can be considered 'new' information which is not currently held.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may find it useful to know that there were fewer applications received in the financial year 2012/13, to become a regular pilot, due to the restriction of the pilot recruitment pipeline following the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

You may also find it useful to know that Phase One training for a potential pilot is IOT. On completion of IOT personnel begin their specialised training, such as flying training, which is Phase Two training. Flying training can take a variable amount of time to complete, depending on several factors; including but not limited to individual aptitude and weather conditions. Pilots are able to transfer their flying specialities to another type of aircraft during the training process.

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