



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2018/15275

[REDACTED]

10 April 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2019 requesting the following information:

I wish to request information under the freedom of information act in relation to manning in the Royal Air Force, more specifically Trade Group 1 (Engineering). I have the following questions:

- 1) I request to obtain figures for the exact number of re-joiners to TG 1 (Mechanical, Avionics & Weapons) in the period from Apr 2017- Mar 2019. I request for the information to be broken down into rank, trade and location. I also request information on if the re-joining personnel have had to pay either part, or all of their gratuity back before re-enlisting as a regular member of the Armed Forces.*
- 2) In relation to the question above, I request information on how the re-joiners may have affected the scaling of numbers for promotion for personnel who are serving (Personnel who have continued to serve, not pers who have left and re-joined).*
- 3) I request information on how many TG1 personnel have accepted the FRI offered in IBN 38/18, and again, how this has affected the scaling of numbers for promotion for personnel still serving.*
- 4) Further, I request the number of TG1 WO who have had their Service extended past their original EED (55 or 37 years of service from 18) between the period Apr 2017- Mar 2019.*

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 information in scope of your request is held.

Due to the small populations generated by this level of detail, and the possibility of identifying individual personnel, data have been rounded to 10 and therefore totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

"0" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5.

Question 1

Request to obtain figures for the exact number of re-joiners to TG 1 (Mechanical, Avionics & Weapons) in the period from Apr 2017- Mar 2019. I request for the information to be broken down into rank, trade and location. I also request information on if the re-joining personnel have had to pay either part, or all of their gratuity back before re-enlisting as a regular member of the Armed Forces.

	April 2017 – April 2018	April 2018 – April 2019
Aircraft Technician - Avionics	10	~
Aircraft Technician – Mechanics	~	~
Engineering Technician – Weapons	~	0

Details of individuals rank, and location have been withheld under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act (relating to third party information). As this is an absolute exemption there is no requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test.

With regard to the gratuity – every individual is potentially different due to distinctions between previous lengths of Service and the Armed Forces Pensions schemes and are advised to contact the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency regarding the potential requirement to repay their gratuity. Further information can be obtained from MMP116 Re-employment booklet:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/493639/20160119 MMP116 Re-employment booklet MMP 116 Accessible 2 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/493639/20160119_MMP116_Re-employment_booklet_MMP_116_Accessible_2.pdf)

Question 2

In relation to the question above, I request information on how the re-joiners may have affected the scaling of numbers for promotion for personnel who are serving (Personnel who have continued to serve, not pers who have left and re-joined).

The rejoiner targets are aimed at having no impact on the scaling of numbers for promotion for personnel who are currently serving.

Question 3

I request information on how many TG1 personnel have accepted the FRI offered in IBN 38/18, and again, how this has affected the scaling of numbers for promotion for personnel still serving.

	Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Withdrawn
Chief Technician Engineering Technician Weapons	~	~	0
Chief Technician Aircraft Technician Mechanics	10	~	~
Chief Technician Aircraft Technician Avionics	~	~	~
Corporal Aircraft Technician Mechanics	20	10	0
Corporal Technician Avionics	10	10	~
Senior Aircraftsman Aircraft Technician Mechanics	~	10	0
Senior Aircraftsman Technician Avionics	~	~	0
Total	60	30	~

Where service personnel were due to be exiting the service and have considered and accepted an Extension of Service, this will impact on the number of promotions that are required. However, not all of these personnel will have been eligible for Financial Retention Incentive (FRI) and therefore, it is difficult to accurately gauge the impact of the FRI. Ultimately the Service need was to retain personnel.

Question 4

Further, I request the number of TG1 WO who have had their Service extended past their original EED (55 or 37 years of service from 18) between the period Apr 2017- Mar 2019.

From April 2017 – March 2019 the number of Trade Group 1 (TG1) Warrant Officers (WO) who have had their Service extended was 20.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. 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,

Air Command Secretariat