



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: 2020/02854

[Redacted]

1 May 2020

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of the 28 February 2020 requesting the following information;

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017, how many allegations of sexual abuse were made against ATC volunteers? How many of these cases were referred to the police for investigation? How many of the offenders were subsequently dismissed from their positions within the organisation?

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018, how many allegations of sexual abuse were made against ATC volunteers? How many of these cases were referred to the police for investigation? How many of the offenders were subsequently dismissed from their positions within the organisation?

Between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019, how many allegations of sexual abuse were made against ATC volunteers? How many of these cases were referred to the police for investigation? How many of the offenders were subsequently dismissed from their positions within the organisation?

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, which has been due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the effect on resources and necessary changes to our ways of working.

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.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded to the nearest 10, where "0" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5.

	Allegations of sexual abuse (Air Training Corps Volunteers) ⁽¹⁾	Allegations referred to Police/Local Authority Designated Officer ⁽²⁾	Staff/Volunteers dismissed following allegations and/or an investigation of sexual abuse ⁽³⁾
2017	10	10	~
2018	20	20	10
2019	10	10	~

(1) The information provided is by the year the allegation was made and not the year in which the alleged incident occurred and includes all allegations made, including those that were later found, following investigation by either the Police or the Cadet Force, as being unfounded. The figures comprise allegations of sexual abuse committed by: staff/adult volunteers and Service Instructors.

(2) In cases where the authorities are notified, this means the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) has either referred the case to the Civilian Police or to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

(3) The number of staff/volunteers who were dismissed from the RAFAC does not include Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers or staff who had left the RAFAC before dismissal could take place. However, disclosure referrals were still made against these individuals if appropriate. The dismissal figure does not include any ongoing cases or necessarily reflect the year in which the allegation was made.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), it may be useful for you to know that not all referral/complaints are notified through the same route i.e. from RAFAC to the statutory authorities, sometimes the referrals were made to the statutory authorities by either the victim or a concerned individual. However, the RAFAC CFAV would still have been suspended during the investigation process and perhaps been subsequently dismissed, so they could be included in columns 1 and 3 but not included in column 2.

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 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-OI-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