



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: 2021/05539

[REDACTED]

22 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of the 25 May 2021 requesting the following information:

- 1. What are the rules regarding joining the RAFAC as a member of staff (both uniformed and civilian instructor) whilst serving at a UAS as a student (either O.Cdt or APO).*
- 2. If UAS students are not permitted to join as staff directly, can they assist in the RAFAC as service instructors.*

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.

A former or current University Air Squadron (UAS) cadet who wishes to hold a specific commission within the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) will need to attend and successfully pass the Officers and Aircrew Selection Centre (unless they were granted a full bursary), and complete the Officers' Initial Course at the RAFAC Training Academy. Alternatively, they may apply to join as a Non-Commissioned Officer or Civilian Instructor. Current UAS cadets may also continue as Staff Cadets on their Air Training Corps Squadron until their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, when they can apply for Cadet Force Adult Volunteer (CFAV) service as either uniformed staff or as a Civilian Instructor.

Cadet members of a UAS are specifically excluded from being appointed as Service Instructors (SIs) to Air Training Corps Squadrons or Combined Cadet Force (Royal Air Force) units. However, members of UAS may be appointed as SIs to a Volunteer Gliding Squadron and /or Aviation Ground School to undertake duties commensurate with their skills, expertise and training.

Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), you might also find it useful to be aware that Regular Armed Forces personnel may not be enrolled as CFAV, although they may help at cadet units as 'Service Instructors' or similar.

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-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

Air Command Secretariat