



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: 2021/03262

20 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of the 23 March 2021 requesting the following information:

*This Freedom of Information request relates to medical conditions which preclude serving in the RAF. Specifically: Having read the PDF linked to the RAF website titled "Medical conditions that preclude entry", confirmed food allergies was listed as one of these conditions. Could I know why confirmed food allergies are included in conditions which preclude entry?*

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.

The nature of Military Service is such that it is not possible to guarantee an individual's ability to self-police an allergy through labelling or identification of trigger constituents.

Section 16 (Advice and Assistance):

It may be helpful to you if I explain that the Armed Forces Medical Policy obliges the Royal Air Force (RAF) to assess an individual's capacity to undertake the unique demands of working and fighting from remote bases in extremely harsh conditions often remote from medical care. The RAF are unable to guarantee that an individual can access a diet which is free from a specific food allergy in all circumstances, It is important also to note that due to the nature of military catering an individual would not be able to self-police their diet within prepared food.

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