



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2020/03618

[REDACTED]

16 April 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2020 requesting the following information:

*The Defence Sixth Form College, Welbeck, has taken its final intake. As you'll be aware, this has left a cohort of students who wished to apply to the DSFC without a clear alternative, bar UAS at degree level.*

*When the closure of Welbeck was announced, so too was the STEM Graduate Inflow Scheme. Those of us in Year 11 currently have limited information about the contents of SGIS (bursary funding, UAS membership, 6th Form Scholarship?) as well as it's requirements (certain GCSEs and A Level grades required, as well as ideal degrees) and finally when this information will be compiled and accessible to the public.*

*This is critical information for us to have, to be able to effectively plan for our futures, and ensure we don't choose the incorrect A Levels and write off a potential career. Any specific information regarding Engineer Officer (CE) roles within SGIS would be greatly appreciated.*

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 within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. I will answer each of your points in turn.

The Defence Sixth Form College at Welbeck took its last intake of students in 2019 and will close in 2021 when this cohort of students graduate. Students will then study their Bachelor of Engineering through the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme which ends in 2024. With the closure of both of these education schemes the Royal Air Force are not offering scholarships to sixth form students but will be focusing its sponsorship schemes on under-graduates.

The RAF are currently designing an engineering sponsorship scheme, this was originally called the STEM Inflow Graduate Scheme (SGIS) but has now been renamed the Defence STEM Undergraduate Scheme (DSUS). I am unable to confirm when information will be updated on the RAF website, however I can advise you that the DSUS is currently planned to be available from September 2022, with selection taking place at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre, in the year preceding DSUS start. The RAF DSUS scheme will be for engineering under-graduates who have been successful in RAF selection and who are studying a Professional Engineering Institute (PEI) accredited degree at a UK university.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to know that most universities will require Maths and Physics at A level or equivalent for those wishing to read for an Engineering degree. You may also like to be aware that the PEI accredited degree list changes annually to

allow for changes in technology and requirements. Further information on accredited degrees can be found in the below link.

<https://www.engc.org.uk/informationfor/students-apprentices-and-graduates/higher-education-he-students/accredited-courses/>

Further information on sponsorships and entry to the RAF can be found on the RAF website <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/sponsorship>

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