



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2019/12042

[REDACTED]

18 November 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 21 October 2019 requesting the following information:

" Please could you provide the following statistics for candidates entering the Pilot (ISR)/ RPAS branch under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Specifically, I would be grateful if you could provide data over the last 3 fiscal years for candidates applying for the Pilot (ISR)/ RPAS branch:

- 1. The number of applicants per year;*
- 2. The number of candidates boarded at OASC per year;*
- 3. The number of candidates enlisted into phase one training each year"*

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 information in scope of your request is held.

Please see the table below, in answer to all three questions, for the branch of Pilot (Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance)/Remotely Piloted Aircraft System for the last three Financial Years (FY):

	Financial Year		
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Number of applicants.	297	163	383
Number Boarded at Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC).	53	26	30
Number enlisted into Phase 1 training (intake).	15	16	19

Please note that those who applied, were boarded at OASC and enlisted into Phase 1 training are not correlated from the same groups of candidates due to the length of the officer recruitment process.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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). 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