



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2021/05372

[Redacted]

15 June 2021

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 May 2021, in which you requested the following information:

*"Please could you let me know:*

*A) How many medical doctors are currently serving in the RAF (regulars and reserves)?*

*B) How many of these are GPs (or the RAF equivalent of a GP)?*

*C) i. How many are specialists (equivalent to a hospital doctor)?*

*C) ii. A breakdown of the number of doctors in each specialty?*

*D) How many new medical doctors are recruited every year on average?."*

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.

Please see table below in relation to question A and B:

Combined figure of trained & untrained Regular Doctors currently serving	Regular serving GPs	Reserve Doctors currently serving	Reserve serving GPs
320	100	20	10

With regard to question C(i), there are currently 60 Regular, and 10 Reserve Specialists serving in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Please see table below with regard to question C (ii).

Speciality (consultants)	Regular	Reserve
Anaesthetist	20	~
Aviation Medicine	~	-
Emergency Medicine	10	~
General Duties Medical Officer	~	-
General Medical Practitioner	100	10
General Surgery	~	~
Medicine	10	-
Occupational Medicine	10	-
Pathology Microbiology	~	-
Psychiatry	~	-
Public Health	~	-
Radiologist	~	-
Rehabilitation & Rheumatology	~	~
Surgical Burns	~	-
Otorhinolaryngology	~	-
Orthopaedics	~	~

And finally turning to question D, in the last 5 years from 2017/18 to 2020/21 there has been a total of 20 Doctors recruited into the Regular RAF. On average there are ~ Doctors recruited into the RAF reserves every year.

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

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,

Air Command Secretariat