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01 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 July 2023 requesting the following information:

*“Please could you provide me with the numbers of Operationally Crewed aircraft compared to the number of Air Ranks in the RAF from 1990 to 2023”*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search for the information you requested, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is partially held.

Information in scope of the request is held, however some of the information falls within the qualified exemptions provided under Section 21 (information accessible by other means) of the FOIA and is therefore to be partially withheld.

Figures for number of Air Ranks (OF6 and above) from 1990 – 2011 can be found in **Table 1**. Under section 21, number of Air Ranks (OF6 and above) from April 2012 to 2023 can be found in the public domain as part of Biannual Diversity Official Statistic publication, found in Table 2a of the accompanying MS Excel Spreadsheet. The latest statistical release can be accessed via the following link: [UK armed forces biannual diversity statistics: April 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-april-2022)

Under Section 21, the number of operationally crewed Aircraft from 2007 to 2013 can be found as part of the Defence Statistics Formations Vessels and Aircraft Statistics, in Table 4.01 which can be accessed at the following link: [Military formations, vessels and aircraft: 2013 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/military-formations-vessels-and-aircraft-2013). The number of operationally crewed Aircraft from 2013 to 2016 can be found in the public domain as part of the UK Armed Forces Equipment and Formations in Table 7, which can be accessed in the MS Excel Spreadsheet at the following link: [UK armed forces equipment and formations 2016 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-equipment-and-formations-2016). Figures for 2016 to 2022 can be found in Table 7 of the MS Excel Spreadsheet at the following link: [UK armed forces equipment and formations 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-equipment-and-formations-2022).

Any other information that has survived that is older than 2007 would also be held at The National Archives, their address is:

*The National Archives,*

*Kew,*

*Richmond,*

*Surrey,*

*TW9 4DU.*

Web Address: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Its catalogue (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/>) is available on the web so you will be able to search for files, although you will not be able to view any documents online and would likely require to visit the Archive in Kew for access. The National Archives do not carry out research on individual members of the public's behalf.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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 review 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,

Head of Analysis Air

Would you like to be added to our contact list so we can consult with you if we are thinking about making any changes to the statistics we compile? Please register your interest by e-mailing [analysis-air@mod.uk](mailto:analysis-air@mod.uk)

**Table 1. Strength of Trained Regular RAF Officers OF6 and above, as at 1 April 1990-2011:**

Year	Strength
1990	173
1991	182
1992	173
1993	162
1994	152
1995	147
1996	152
1997	142
1998	135
1999	134
2000	141
2001	137
2002	131
2003	128
2004	132
2005	131
2006	129
2007	136
2008	128
2009	127
2010	130
2011	126

Source: Analysis Air