



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2023/10724

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

19 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 August 2023 in which you requested the following information:

Please provide a list of the honorary ambassadors (past and present) and their appointment and termination dates.

Please also provide any correspondence from the last two years (from 070823) where their conduct had been cause for concern.

On 2 September 2023 you clarified your request to:

For clarity [sic], please cover any communication between Commandant Air Cadets and anyone in his media team that relates to the appointment or removal of ambassadors since 01Jan20 to 01Sep23.

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 below the list of Honorary Ambassadors in the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) and their appointment dates:

Sir Chris Hoy 28 April 2013 – 30 January 2018
Carol Vorderman 20 November 2014 – Present
Emma Wolstenholme 18 November 2021 – Present

The information regarding communications between Commandant RAFAC and his media team for the period you have request is attached as Annex A; duplicate emails have been removed.

I can advise that some of the information in scope of your request falls entirely within the scope of the exemption provided for at Sections 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been redacted. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise, this exercise involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against

the legitimate interests in disclosure, this is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions in FOIA. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the exemption in Section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interests test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified in the attached information.

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,

[Electronically signed]

Air Command Secretariat

Enc. Annex A

[REDACTED]

From: Keeling, Anthony Air Cdre (RAFAC-HQ-Comdt) [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 May 2023 23:07

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 20230505-[REDACTED]_Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

Hi [REDACTED],

I just bumped into CAS at the RAF Club and he raised this matter. We agreed that in addition to the LTT as advertised that we should also include a line expressing our gratitude for what [REDACTED] has done to support youth and STEM ?V please work this up with M&C etc.

Additionally, CAS recalls signing an extension of [REDACTED] tenure during his time as DCom Cap or early CAS days; this may prove useful in bounding the current arrangements. May I ask you to work with the respective offices to see if that detail can be surfaced.

With thanks

TK

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 May 2023 14:04

To: Keeling, Anthony Air Cdre (RAFAC-HQ-Comdt) [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: 20230505-[REDACTED]_Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

BLUF: [REDACTED] has removed honorary position at RAFAC from [REDACTED] twitter bio. [REDACTED] has spotted this and is making a deal about it along with claims that CAS has spoken with [REDACTED]. LTTs remain extant.

We have received a response from DRes Sec stating that the LTTs from last week hold true and that it would be inadvisable to say anything other than confirming [REDACTED] remains in [REDACTED] position. I would agree with this stance as there is little we can say that wont simply add fuel to the fire.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 May 2023 13:53

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 20230505-[REDACTED]_Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

[REDACTED]

As [REDACTED] has tweeted from [REDACTED] personal Twitter account, there is nothing further we can say beyond the LTT we provided to DDC last

week, which were as follows:

LTT

- [REDACTED] is currently an ambassador for the RAF Air Cadets (RAFAC).
- It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

My working pattern is 3 days wfh, 2 days in office but I am contactable via Skype or IM.

[REDACTED] RAF High Wycombe?xBucks?xHP14 4UE| Skype: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] ?xIntranet: [Air Cmd Sec Intranet Page](#)

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Please consider the environment and only print this e-mail if necessary.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 May 2023 13:37
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 20230505-[REDACTED] Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today.

Hi [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] story seems to be bubbling on and we may get another wave of enquiries. It seems that [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] Twitter Bio. People have noticed and starting to comment about it thanks to [REDACTED] commenting about it after [REDACTED]

There are rumours that either Commandant Air Cadets or CAS has told [REDACTED] to tone it down. I am not sure of the veracity of that statement.

I think we may need defensive lines ready, but to be honest, I am entirely unsure of what we would say that wouldn't stir the pot more.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: Keeling, Anthony Air Cdre (RAFAC-HQ-Comdt) [REDACTED]

Sent: 09 May 2023 08:18

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 20230505-[REDACTED] Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

Hi Everyone,

Apologies for coming to this late.

Attached is the proposal to appoint [REDACTED]. I assume CAS(I) approved; however, there is no audit trail (that I'm aware of) that deals with the process of appointment, term and conditions of appointment, mutual dependencies and code of conduct. Therefore, while [REDACTED] wears the VR(T) badges, subjecting [REDACTED] to the bounds and constraints of ACP20 et al may be more problematic.

I can also confirm that [REDACTED] affiliation with [REDACTED], and therefore not subject to NDA or the unit's Code of Conduct.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 May 2023 14:32

To: [REDACTED]

Keeling, Anthony Air Cdre (RAFAC-HQ-Comdt)

Subject: RE: 20230505-[REDACTED] Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

Sir, All,

To add to the conversation, having scoured ACP 20 with [REDACTED], it is our understanding that [REDACTED] is effectively an honorary CFAV as [REDACTED] was appointed, initially as a VR(T) officer, under RAFAC regulations see extract below:

??Exceptionally, and solely in the interests of the Corps, Commandant RAFAC may appoint suitable officers to the Honorary Rank of Gp Capt in accordance with ACP 1919A.

Rgds

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RAFAC HQ

S4B: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]



an Air, Space and Cyber focused uniformed youth organisation whose purpose is to grow young people's potential while fostering an interest in the Royal Air Force



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From: [redacted]
Sent: 05 May 2023 13:01
To: [redacted]
Keeling, Anthony Air Cdre (RAFAC-HQ-Comdt)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 20230505-[redacted] Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

I have just been told [redacted] is not a CFAV after all. [redacted] comes under [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05 May 2023 12:44
To: [redacted]
Keeling, Anthony Air Cdre (RAFAC-HQ-Comdt)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: 20230505-[redacted] Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today

Hi [redacted]

I've spoken with my colleagues at Air M&C and their view is that we really shouldn't be commenting at our level as the focus of the questions is policy based so this should be raised at a different level by Air Secretariat, but that said we can still inform as to our position so Air Sec is informed.

My suggested responses to these would be:

- 1 ?V Yes [redacted] is still an ambassador
- 2 ?V We wouldn't comment publicly on individual cases of people breaking codes of conduct as this would be up to a disciplinary review panel to decide on as appropriate ?V (as an aside, Air sec's view is that [redacted] is a civilian in an honorary role so not subject to the same codes of conduct as a regular or reservist ?V or indeed a civil servant when it comes to expressing a political opinion on social media. Ive pointed out that [redacted] is a CFAV and technically is indeed beholden to those same rules)
- 3 ?V We are not currently looking into [redacted] but we do investigate any reports raised to us regarding the activity of our Cadets and Volunteers
- 4 ?V Again, we would not pre-determine the outcome of any investigation or disciplinary panel review for any infraction made by any of our people.

[redacted]/Tony ?V are you content with these stances? I feel that making a firm comment or commitment either way would be a disaster as it's a bit of a no-win story. Hanging [redacted] out to dry wouldn't look good, but by the same token we cant support what [redacted] is saying as we need to remain politically neutral.

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 May 2023 10:40
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 20230505-[REDACTED]_Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today
Importance: High

Hi guys, can you please take a look at the question below from Air Sec. They require an answer by 1300 hrs today. Can you please let me know if you envisage any problems?K..

Many thanks.

🌱 Be GREEN, keep it on the SCREEN

📞 [REDACTED] | 📞 Skype Me / Tel: [REDACTED]
Postal Address: RAF Air Cadet Headquarters, RAF Cranwell, Sleaford Lincoln, NG34 8HB

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Useful Links: [AP 7004 Management of Information](#) | [Records Management](#) | [Air Information Portal](#) | [Air Data Protection](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 May 2023 10:25
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 20230505-[REDACTED]_Twitter-CAS_Linked-Sun_Question - Media enquiry - Input and advice reqd by 1300 hrs today
Importance: High

We've received an enquiry from the MOD press office who have been contacted by The Sun regarding a Tweet by [REDACTED] and the fact [REDACTED] been called out by [REDACTED] who flagged the tweet to Chief of the Air Staff suggesting that [REDACTED] comments are at odds with [REDACTED] position as an [REDACTED] in the Air Cadets.

The Sun has asked the following:

- Is [REDACTED] still representing the Air Cadets within the Royal Air Force as an [REDACTED]?
- Is [REDACTED] breaking the RAF's code of conduct or any other rules regarding [REDACTED] tweets?
- Is the RAF looking into [REDACTED]
- If [REDACTED] found to have broken any rules, would [REDACTED] have [REDACTED] honorary status removed?

For reference, the tweets are as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please can RAFAC advise if [REDACTED] tweets breach RAFAC policy given [REDACTED] position as [REDACTED]? Any info will be helpful so I can pull some LTT together for the MOD Press Office.

I'd be grateful for input and advice by 1300 hrs today.

Many thanks and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

My working pattern is 3 days wfh, 2 days in office but I am contactable via Skype or IM.

[REDACTED] RAF High Wycombe?xBucks?xHP14 4UE| Skype: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] ?xIntranet: [Air Cmd Sec Intranet Page](#)

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