



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2023/06295

[REDACTED]

13 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence on 8 May 2023 requesting the following information:

Please may I request the number of applications for the role of Weapons Systems Officer(WSO) since the roll reopened at the end of January 2023. If available could you state where these applicants are in the system, i.e, pre CBAT, pre filter, boarded at OASC awaiting medical, in the further consideration sift .

Additionally can I have the numbers of applications for the role before it closed in October 2020, and how many of the applicants are still in the recruitment system, i.e in the further consideration sift.

In your further e-mail on 17 May 2023 in response to our request for you to clarify your questions, you requested the following information:

I'm looking for the number of applications that are still active for WSO that were originally placed before the job role closed in October 2020.

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.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 under Section 40(2) (third party personal data) of the FOI Act in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias. 5 or fewer is represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.

Please may I request the number of applications for the role of Weapons Systems Officer(WSO) since the roll reopened at the end of January 2023.

400 applications were submitted for the Weapons System Operator (WSO) role between 1 January 2023 and the 30 April 2023.

If available could you state where these applicants are in the system, i.e, pre CBAT, pre filter, boarded at OASC awaiting medical, in the further consideration sift .

The in-process pipelines at 22 May 2023, for 2023 applications – pre-allocation (including sponsorship) – is detailed in the table below. The current number of candidates is 250, which is different to the number above due to the fluid nature of the pipeline.

	Eligibility Check	Transfer to a Recruiter	Aptitude Test	Filter Interview	Medical Examination	Fitness Test	Specialist Event (Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre and/or Specialist Medical)
WSO	20	100	50	40	20	~	20

Additionally can I have the numbers of applications for the role before it closed in October 2020, and how many of the applicants are still in the recruitment system, i.e in the further consideration sift.

There were 230 applications for the WSO role during the period January 2020 to October 2020. There are still 5 or fewer active candidates (not allocated to Phase 1 Training) in the recruitment system from 2021 and 5 or fewer from 2020 that are currently listed against the WSO specialisation.

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,

[Original signed]

Air Command Secretariat