



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI 2023/12162

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
7 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 August 2023 requesting the following information:

"Please provide a summary, broken down by rank (for example Cadet Sergeant, Cadet Warrant Officer, Sergeant, Flight Sergeant, Acting Pilot Officer, Squadron Leader), and Wing the average age (in years) of personnel within the RAFAC.

Where personnel are assigned to a higher formation than a Wing (e.g Region, HQRAFAC), please detail distinctly.

Please exclude cadets and CFAV within the CCF from this request, and those still holding VR(T) commissions, therefore only detailing ATC personnel."

In your further e-mail of 11 October 2023 in response to our request for you to clarify your questions, you requested the following information:

To clarify, this request relates to Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and Cadets in the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC); it does not include salaried staff, civil servants etc

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Please find attached Annex A - Average Ages. This data reflects average ages of Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and Cadets in the Royal Air Force Air Cadets excluding those in the Combined Cadet Force and those holding Volunteer Reserve (Training) commissions.

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, which 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 under the FOIA. The balancing exercise is carried out 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 some of the average ages in scope of this request.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know that due to a small population in some categories some averages may be skewed.

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 you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. 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@mod.uk). Please note that any reason 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 Commissioners website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed electronically]

Air Command Secretariat

Enc: Annex A – Average Ages

FOI2023/12162 – Annex A – Average ages

Glossary

Cdt – Cadet

Cpl – Corporal

Sgt - Sergeant

FS - Flight Sergeant

CWO – Cadet Warrant Officer

CI – Civilian Instructor

WO – Warrant Officer

APO – Acting Pilot Officer

Plt Off – Pilot Officer

Fg Off – Flying Officer

Flt Lt – Flight Lieutenant

Sqn Ldr – Squadron
Leader

Wg Cdr – Wing
Commander

Gp Capt – Group Captain

Average ages by Wing

Wing/Rank	Cadet/ Cdt	Cadet/ Cpl	Cadet/ Sgt	Cadet/ FS	Cadet/ CWO	CI	Sgt	FS	WO	APO	Plt Off	Fg Off	Flt Lt	Sqn Ldr	Wg Cdr
Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire	14	16	17	18	19	43	27	34	48	31	35	46	45	44	
Bristol & Gloucestershire	14	16	17	18	19	50	32	37	43	30	33	42	54	52	
Central & East Yorkshire	14	16	17	18	19	45	27	37	49	33	35	43	51	52	
Central Scotland	14	15	17	18	19	46	35	34	48	22	26	44	51	54	
Cumbria & Lancashire	14	16	17	18	19	43	29	43	49	23		44	51	52	
Devon & Somerset	14	16	17	18	19	47	39	38	54	41	44	44	52	47	
Dorset & Wiltshire	14	16	17	18	19	48	33	38	52	41	44	43	52	50	
Durham & Northumberland	14	15	17	18	19	45	33	37	54	24	31	37	47	49	
Essex	14	16	17	18	19	44	33	42	46	23	24	36	49	46	

Greater Manchester	14	16	17	18	19	43	37	41	50	37	33	36	51	52
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	14	16	17	18	19	44	31	37	41	32	26	42	45	55
Hertfordshire	14	15	17	18	19	43	33	43	48	21	38	42	49	47
Kent	14	16	17	18	19	45	32	38	44	31	25	39	44	53
London	14	16	17	18	19	38	31	42	48	29	26	33	46	47
Merseyside	14	16	17	18	19	41	30	42	47	31	32	41	47	46
Middlesex	14	16	17	18	19	41	34	38	44	23	28	31	44	46
Northern Ireland	14	16	17	17	19	44	32	48	44	49		40	48	55
No 1 Welsh	14	16	17	18	19	42	48	40	52	26	30	41	44	50
No 2 Welsh	14	15	17	18	19	43	36	49	47	45		48	46	52
No 3 Welsh	14	16	17	17	19	47	35	39	54	33	36	40	47	62
Norfolk & Suffolk	14	16	16	18	19	43	32	40	52	23	54	47	50	51
North Scotland	14	15	17	18	18	44	29	39	49	27	29	40	49	55
Plymouth & Cornwall	14	15	17	18	18	48	36	46	50	41	34	39	46	55
South & West Yorkshire	14	15	17	17	19	42	28	38	50	31	36	36	46	48
South & East Midlands	14	16	17	18	19	43	31	41	49	26	35	43	46	44
South East Scotland	14	15	17	18	19	46	34	38	53	32	39	39	44	63
Staffordshire	14	16	16	18	19	46	36	30	48	33	24	40	45	47
Surrey	14	16	17	18	19	42	29	37	45	39	35	46	55	55
Sussex	14	15	17	18	19	46	37	36	49	34	40	37	45	53
Thames Valley	14	16	17	18	19	45	32	41	48	25	36	43	48	51
Trent	14	15	17	18	18	46	31	40	44	32	28	39	47	40
Warwickshire & Buckinghamshire	14	16	16	18	18	40	39	44	50	29	32	42	55	51
West Mercian	14	16	16	18	19	44	34	41	49	33	22	38	48	48
West Scotland	14	16	17	18	19	41	31	42	49		25	35	46	53

Ages by Region/No. 2 Flying Training School

Region/Rank	CI	Sgt	FS	WO	APO	Plt Off	Fg Off	Flt Lt	Sqn Ldr	Wg Cdr
No 2. Flying Training School	40	32	33	49	39	40	40	53	50	61
Central & East				48				46	52	
London & South East				48			40	35	44	
North				51				60	52	62
Scotland & Northern Ireland				52				63	55	65
South West				42				51	61	52
Wales & West				41				40	52	50

Ages Royal Air Force Air Cadet HQ

HQ/Rank	CI	Sgt	FS	WO	APO	Plt Off	Fg Off	Flt Lt	Sqn Ldr	Wg Cdr	Gp Capt
HQ Royal Air Force Air Cadets	46			50			39	45	50	59	