



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: 2023/12164

10 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 October 2023 requesting the following information:

*Please can you provide all correspondence leading to and relating to the decision by the RAF Dress Policy Steering Group on 27th July 2020 to allow Commandant Air Cadets to wear 2\* accoutrements (embellished shoulder boards and gold barrel sash), whereas this privilege was previously not afforded to this postholder.*

*In answering this FOI please can you specifically provide correspondence showing who originated the request for this amendment to the Dress Policy Steering Group and their rationale for doing so.*

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.

The agenda for the Dress Policy Steering Group July 2020 is attached at Annex A.  
The minutes for the Dress Policy Steering Group July 2020 is attached at Annex B.

Section 40 (Personal Information), 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 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 - Dress Policy Steering Group Agenda July 2020

Annex B - Dress Policy Steering Group Minutes July 2020

20200714-RAF Dress Policy Steering Group (DPSG) Agenda Pack-O

14 Jul 20

CASWO (DPSG Chair).  
DPSG membership.

**RAF DPSG BRIEFING PACK FOR 27 JUL 20 MEETING**

Item 1 Welcome and Introductions

Item 2 Approval of Minutes of last meeting

Item 3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 4 Topics for discussion:

1 Out of Scope

■

2 Out of Scope

■

**3 Comdt RAFAC accoutrements. (10 min)**

3. ■ has proposed that the wearing of 2\* garb, i.e. embellished shoulder boards and gold barrel sash should be extended to the Commandant RAF Air Cadets. AP1358 enables a small number of 1\* posts to wear 2\* items for representational purposes.

4 Out of Scope

■

5 Out of Scope

■

6 Out of Scope

■

Out of Scope

■

Out of Scope [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

RAF Dress Policy Steering Group

Annexes:

Out of Scope [redacted]

B. 1\* wearing of 2\* items.

Out of Scope [redacted]

[redacted]

Out of Scope

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Out of Scope  
[Redacted text block]

**1\* Officers currently entitled to wear 2\* items.**

AP1358 Chapter 1 refers;

No 1A SD Uniform (Ceremonial Day). No 1A SD is identical to No 1 SD, except that ceremonial sash and shoulder boards are worn by entitled officers. It is worn when No 1A SD is appropriate formally on parade or in a formal representative role. The No 1A SD Uniform is restricted to:

(1) AVM rank and above.

(2) Officers assigned to the 1\* appointment of Comdt RAFC Cranwell, Air Officer Wales, Air Officer Scotland, CG RAF Regt/AO RAFP and retired Air Officers appointed as Gentlemen Ushers to the Sovereign, DNS (RAF) and the RAF Equerry to Her Majesty The Queen, by nature of appointment, wear the AO sash but not ceremonial boards.

Sec can only find one reference to the endorsement of such practice.

20080313-CER DRESS

13 Mar 08

AOC 2 Gp

Copy to:

CG RAF Regt/AO RAFP

**CG RAF REGT/AO RAFP APPOINTMENT – WEARING OF AIR OFFICER'S CEREMONIAL SASH AND SHOULDER BOARDS**

CG RAF Regt recently submitted a paper<sup>1</sup> in which he recommended that the privilege of wearing the Air Officer's ceremonial sash and shoulder boards be extended to CG RAF Regt/AO RAFP. My fellow AFB colleagues and I have considered the case and agree that due to CG RAF Regt/AO RAFP's significant representational duties, coupled with his unique relationship with Her Majesty the Queen, we are content to endorse this recommendation. CG RAF Regt/AO RAFP is thus authorised to wear the Air Officer's ceremonial sash and shoulder boards with immediate effect.

AMP

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<sup>1</sup> 20080226-No1 SD Day Ceremonial CG RAF Regt/AO RAFP Appt-RM.

Out of Scope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Out of Scope

[REDACTED]

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Out of Scope

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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Out of Scope			

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**OFFICIAL**

AC/312029/1/2/A4

27 Jul 20

See Distribution

**MINUTES OF RAF CLOTHING AND DRESS POLICY STEERING GROUP (DPSG)  
HELD AT RAF HIGH WYCOMBE AND VIA SKYPE ON 27 JUL 20**

Present	WO J Alpert [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	CASWO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Chair               Secretary
In Attendance	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
Apologies	Nil		
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>1. Due to the restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic the DPSG members utilised Skype for the meeting. Only 3 members gathered in the Conference Room at RAF High Wycombe.</p> <p><b>Item 2 – Approval of Minutes of the last meeting (Nov 19).</b></p> <p>2. Technical difficulties prompted a move to topics for discussion, however, all tasks from the Nov 19 meeting have been completed and approved by the Chair.</p> <p><b>Item 3 – Matters arising from the last meeting.</b></p> <p>3. Nil.</p> <p><b>Item 4 – Topics for discussion.</b></p> <p>4. Not in Scope [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>			<p><b>Action</b></p>

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

CASWO,  
A4

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

6. Wearing of 2\* Accoutrements by Comdt RAFAC. The DPSG endorsed the wearing of embellished ceremonial shoulder boards and gold barrel sash by the Commandant RAF Air Cadets. This endorsement does not carry any further entitlements associated with 2\* appointments (i.e. aiguillettes worn by personal staff).

a. **Decision.** Approved. [Redacted] to advise originator.

Not in Scope

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Not in Scope

[Redacted]

OFFICIAL

Not in Scope	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

Distribution:

Action:

Copy to:

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