



Ministry
of Defence



FOI2020/06474

E-mail: Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk



11 June 2020

Dear ,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 June 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'Non-Religious Chaplains employed by the Royal Air Force – if any?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and in response to your request, I can tell you that no Non-Religious Chaplains are employed by the Royal Air Force.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, it may help if I explain that Armed Forces Chaplains must be ordained by one of the specified churches and have their permission to apply to join before an application can proceed. The joining criteria for the Royal Air Force Chaplaincy branch is as follows:

RAF Eligibility:

1. Be aged 26 to 53.
2. Have the academic qualifications required by the Sending Churches for ministerial training.
3. Be ordained and have 3 years' pastoral experience.
4. Be a citizen of the UK or ROI, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been Commonwealth citizen since birth.
5. Meet the health and fitness criteria.
6. Pass a fitness test.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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.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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section