



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2022/09981

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

31 August 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 August 2022 in which you requested the following information:

'Freedom of Information request - Correct pipeline of RN observer training

From various sources, I have found different routes down the pipeline. Something I have collectively gathered is that they fly commercially owned king airs as the second stage and their predominant training, however, what is not so clear is the first stage. Do they go to RAF Barkston Heath for training on the Grob tutor or RNAS Yeovilton with 727 NAS? Then, do they go to Valley for training on the H145 Jupiter as rear aircrew?'

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 been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In response to your request, I can advise that Royal Navy (RN) Observers join the UK Military Flying Training System to complete Ground School at RAF Shawbury. Personnel then remain at RAF Shawbury to complete a course on the H135 (JUNO) before proceeding to RAF Valley to complete more maritime focussed sorties on the H145 (JUPITER). Personnel complete the UK Military Flight Training School part of their pipeline at RNAS CULDROSE on the King Air (AVENGER) before moving to their selected Front Line aircraft types.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may be interested to know that there are no RN Observer training elements at RNAS YEOVILTON where 727 Naval Air Squadron are based.

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