



Ministry  
of Defence

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Mr J Zacchi  
[request-818306-38fab46f@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-818306-38fab46f@whatdotheyknow.com)

24 January 2022

Dear Mr Zacchi,

Thank you for your email of 24 December 2021 in which you requested the following information about the Army Cadet Force (ACF):

*Could you provide the formation date of each Army Cadet Force (ACF) County/battalion? I'm aware many of the cadet detachments might be able to trace their origins to before 1908, but I'm only looking for each county/battalion's formation date at the strength of a battalion within the ACF. I'm therefore requesting the following:*

- 1) Formation date of each Army Cadet Force County/Battalion*
- 2) List of the current Army Cadet Force Counties/Battalions by region/command (ie: Headquarters [sic] North East/Headquarters South West)*
- 3) Disbanded ACF Counties/Battalions since 1949*
- 4) Affiliated (overall) regiment/corps for each county/battalion (if applicable)*

*I've done some FOI(A)s before and have indeed done independent research on counties and their history, but haven't found anywhere that has the formation dates listed and any former counties.*

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

Information relating to part one and part three of your request regarding the 'formation date of each Army Cadet Force County/Battalion' and 'disbanded ACF Counties/Battalions since 1949' is not held by the Department. Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), I can advise that it is unlikely that any such material dating back this far will be held. Depending on the type of information being requested, after defined periods it will either be disposed of or potentially transferred to The National Archives for permanent preservation. Should you wish to undertake your own search, you may do so via The National Archives' website at the following link: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

It may be helpful if I also explain that the current ACF county system was established in 1942 as part of the recruitment and training effort of World War Two. This saw the establishment of cadet battalions linked to ceremonial counties but retaining elements of cap badge association. Reviews in the 1950s and 1960s then saw the ACF removed from

the Army structure and the term 'ACF county' was adopted to reflect this. Furthermore, whilst there have been some structural changes involving ACFs since 1949, it is understood that none have been 'disbanded' however, some may have been re-organised and subsumed by the relevant Regional Brigade. More information on the ACF's history can be found on the Army Cadets' website: <https://armycadets.com/who-we-are/our-history/>.

Information relating to part two of your request regarding a 'list of the current Army Cadet Force Counties/Battalions' is held by the department and a table can be found at Annex A of this letter.

Information relating to part four of your request regarding 'affiliated (overall) regiment/corps for each county/battalion' is not held by the department. I can advise under Section 16 of the Act that the majority of ACF counties are not affiliated to an Army Corps or Regiment, unless clearly stated within their title, for example 'Surrey (PWRR Bn) ACF'. Ordinarily, each ACF County comprises a number of detachments, and it is these detachments that are affiliated to Army Corps or Regiments, and through this they wear the cap badge of that unit. You are able to search for ACF detachments on the Army Cadets' website: <https://armycadets.com/>.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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](mailto: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 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,

Army Policy & Secretariat

Enclosures:

Annex A – Table showing the British Army's Cadet Force Counties, as at January 2022

**Table showing the Army Cadet Force Counties, by Brigade / Regional Point of Command (RPOC), as at January 2022**

<b>Brigade / RPOC</b>	<b>ACF County</b>
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Buckinghamshire (The Rifles) ACF
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Hampshire and Isle of Wight ACF
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Kent ACF
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Bn ACF
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Royal County of Berkshire ACF
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Surrey (PWRR Bn) ACF
11th Security Force Assistance Brigade	Sussex ACF
11 Sig Bde and HQ West Midlands	Hereford and Worcester ACF
11 Sig Bde and HQ West Midlands	Shropshire ACF
11 Sig Bde and HQ West Midlands	Staffordshire and West Midland North Sector ACF
11 Sig Bde and HQ West Midlands	Warwickshire and West Midland South Sector ACF
160th (Welsh) Brigade	Clwyd & Gwynedd ACF
160th (Welsh) Brigade	Dyfed & Glamorgan ACF
160th (Welsh) Brigade	Gwent & Powys ACF
38 (Irish) Bde	1st (Northern Ireland) Battalion ACF
38 (Irish) Bde	2nd (Northern Ireland) Battalion ACF
4th Inf Bde and HQ North East	Cleveland ACF
4th Inf Bde and HQ North East	Durham ACF
4th Inf Bde and HQ North East	Humberside and South Yorkshire ACF
4th Inf Bde and HQ North East	Northumbria ACF
4th Inf Bde and HQ North East	Yorkshire (N & W) ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	1st BN The Highlanders ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	2nd BN The Highlanders ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	Angus & Dundee BN ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders BN ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	Black Watch BN ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	Glasgow & Lanarkshire BN ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	Lothian & Borders BN ACF
51 Inf Bde and HQ Scotland	The West Lowland BN ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Cambridgeshire ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Derbyshire ACF (Mercian Regiment)
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Essex ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Leicestershire Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Lincolnshire ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Norfolk ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Nottinghamshire ACF
7th Inf Bde and HQ East	Suffolk BN ACF
HQ North West	Cheshire ACF
HQ North West	Cumbria ACF
HQ North West	Greater Manchester ACF
HQ North West	Isle of Man ACF

HQ North West	Lancashire ACF
HQ North West	Merseyside ACF
HQ South West	Cornwall ACF (The Rifles)
HQ South West	Devon ACF
HQ South West	Dorset ACF
HQ South West	Gloucestershire ACF (The Rifles)
HQ South West	Somerset Cadet Bn (The Rifles) ACF
HQ South West	The City and County of Bristol ACF
HQ South West	Wiltshire ACF
London District	City of London and North East Sector ACF
London District	Greater London South East Sector ACF
London District	Greater London South West Sector ACF
London District	Middlesex and North West London Sector ACF