



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2019/01159

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Mr T Williams
request-546693-3cb5a152@whatdotheyknow.com

22 February 2019

Dear Mr Williams,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 January 2019 in which you requested the following information:

- '1) The number of officers that have been commissioned into the royal navy that identify as Black (African)
- 2) The number of naval officers that identify as Black (African) that have successfully graduated from an operational conversion unit as pilots.
- 3) A breakdown of aircraft types that have been flown by officers that identify as Black (African), and the number that flew each type.'

And then clarified on 28 January 2019:

'With regards to the timeframe in which to provide information for: if possible, can you provide the current numbers for each of the questions, i.e. the number of currently serving naval officers that identify as Black (African) and have successfully graduated from an operational conversion unit as pilots; as well as seperately the total number in the history of Royal Navy (post 1960).'

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and can be found detailed within Annex A.

I should advise you that ethnicity data is held from April 2007 and is self-reported on the Joint Personnel Administration system. Personnel may not, therefore, have an ethnicity

recorded or may choose not to declare, and the figures provided are for personnel with a known ethnicity that includes Black (African), this includes personnel with mixed ethnicities.

It may be helpful to note the response to questions two and three includes Pilots in the Royal Navy (RN) Warfare Fleet Air Arm (FAA) branch and Maintenance Test Pilots in the RN Engineer FAA branch.

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

Q1. The Number of Officers that have been Commissioned into the Royal Navy that Identify as Black (African).

Table 1a. Strength of Royal Navy (RN)/Royal Marines (RM) Regular Officers with a Black (African) Ethnicity, as at 1 October 2018

	Total
Black (African)	10

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. Includes trained and untrained personnel.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias.

Table 1b. Intake to RN/RM Regular Officers with a Black (African) Ethnicity, 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2018

	Total
Black (African)	10

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. Includes trained and untrained intake.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias.

Q2. The Number of Naval Officers that Identify as Black (African) that have Successfully Graduated from an Operational Conversion Unit as Pilots.

Table 2a. Strength of RN/RM Trained Regular Pilots and Maintenance Test Pilots with a Black (African) Ethnicity, as at 1 October 2018

	Total
Black (African)	~

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. Pilots become trained upon graduation from an Operation Conversion Unit, therefore the trained strength has been used to identify personnel who have graduated from an Operation Conversion Unit.
2. '~' represents figures of 5 or fewer as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity.

Table 2b. Completion of Training for RN/RM Regular Pilots and Maintenance Test Pilots with a Black (African) Ethnicity, 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2018

	Total
Black (African)	~

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. Pilots become trained upon graduation from an Operation Conversion Unit, therefore completion of training has been used to determine graduation from an Operation Conversion Unit.
2. Figures may include personnel who have completed training having previously been untrained and personnel who have completed cross training having previously been trained in a different specialisation.
3. '~' represents figures of 5 or fewer as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity.

Q3. A Breakdown of Aircraft Types that have been Flown by Officers that Identify as Black (African), and the Number that Flew Each Type.

Table 3. Aircraft Types Flown by RN/RM Trained Regular Pilots and Maintenance Test Pilots with a Black (African) Ethnicity

Aircraft Type	Total
Lynx/Wildcat	~

1. Includes personnel who served as a Trained Pilot at some point between 1 April 2007 and 31 September 2018.
2. '~' represents figures of 5 or fewer as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity.