



# Ministry of Defence

**Air Command Secretariat**  
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20180607-FOI 06435

Mr Robert Lockhart [by email]  
[request-476188-78e3bad2@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-476188-78e3bad2@whatdotheyknow.com)

8 June 2018

Dear Mr Lockhart

Your correspondence dated 13 May 2018 has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

On 8 April, you requested the following information:

“Please show all communications between AOC 22 Group RAF and the AOC RAF Air Cadets in relation to the dismissal or restriction of action of civilian welfare committees and their position in law in relation to the RAFAC and the Charity Commission regulations over the past five years. This does not include the 863 Squadron affair.”

On 27 April, you were asked to clarify if by “Air Officer Commanding the RAF Air Cadets” you were referring to the Commandant of the RAF Air Cadets and if by “civilian welfare committee” you were referring to the RAF Air Cadet Squadron Civilian Committees. On 13 May you clarified:

“Please provide all communications between OC 22 Group and AOC RAF Air Cadets regarding charity law and its implementation and compliance in regard to Civilian Welfare Committee’s [sic] terms of reference as per ACP 11”.

I can confirm that information relating to your request is held by the MOD. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

To provide information for your request it would be necessary to identify, locate, retrieve and extract emails and documents spanning the last 10 years. A search of a number of different

electronic locations/databases, some with no functioning search facilities, and a manual trawl of archived records would be required. As such, it has been estimated that it would take over 8 working days to identify, locate, retrieve and extract any relevant information.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (the duty to provide advice and assistance), the MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For instance, limiting your request to information generated within the last six months may be provided within the cost limit.

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,

Air Command Secretariat