



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: 16-01-2013-120939-005

Mr Owen Everett

By e-mail: request-145828-11dff090@whatdotheyknow.com

13 February 2013

Dear Mr Everett

Thank you for your email of 16 January which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000; I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

I can confirm that the MOD holds some of the information you have requested. In your email you asked the following questions, which I will address in turn.

Please can you send me the following information regarding RAF university bursaries and cadetships from the most recent academic year for which data are available:

Q1. The number of applicants, and the number of places, for the University Air Squadron bursary, the medical cadetship, and any other RAF bursary or cadetship scheme.

The information requested is set out below and is applicable to the 2011/12 Academic Year.

Defence Sixth Form College (DSFC) 2012

Applications	Places	Awarded
150	30	30

Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme

Applications	Places	Awarded
40	40	30

University Air Squadron Bursary Scheme

The only bursaries offered for the 2011/12 academic year were for the Medical and Dental Branches.

Applications	Places	Awarded
30	10	10

Medical Cadetships (where existing Bursars are upgraded to Cadetships)

Applications	Places	Awarded
20	20	20

Q2. The distribution of applicants for each scheme by local authority.

The MOD does not hold the information requested.

Q3. The number of successful applicants who signed their contract when they were under 18 years old.

None of the successful applicants signed agreements when they were under 18. The only agreement we have for under 18's is with DSFC students. This agreement is between the College and the students' parents.

Q4. The number of students, at any stage of their degree, for each scheme, who changed their minds and ended the contract (including up until the start of the following academic year).

“~” (Denoting a number less than or equal to 5; please see below for explanatory note).

Q5. What is the minimum number of years that students with a UAS bursary and medical cadetship must serve, respectively, after graduating?

For the 2011/12 academic year, graduates from the UAS Bursary Scheme are required to serve for a minimum of nine years. Graduates from Medical Cadetships are required to serve for a minimum of six years post registration.

Q6. Are students with UAS bursaries committed to attending a particular university, or studying a particular course?

The RAF only sponsors undergraduates who attend a UK mainland University. Branches such as engineering, medical and dental require students to study specific degrees. For example a student in receipt of a bursary from the RAF's medical branch will be required to study medicine. However the majority of other branches do not normally have restrictions on the degree subject.

Q7. If a student changes their minds and ends the contract, how soon does the bursary have to be re-paid in full?

If the amount to be repaid exceeds £4,000, repayment is required in a maximum of five years. If the amount is under £4,000, then repayment is required within two years.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, please note that the figures provided above have been rounded to the nearest 10 and “~” denotes a number less than or equal to 5. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the **Deputy Chief Information Officer**, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

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