



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref. 2018/02589

Mr Chris Scott

Email: Request-463998-cec567a2@whatdotheyknow.com

29 March 2018

Dear Mr Scott,

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2018 requesting the following information:

Can you please provide minutes for both the Air Cadet Management Board and CEB for the last 2 years.

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. This information is attached at Annex A.

Some information contained within the Air Cadet Management Board minutes falls within scope of the qualified exemptions section 26 (Security) and section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA, and has been withheld.

Therefore, a Public Interest Test has been conducted to determine whether, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure. I have found that, while release of the information would promote an understanding of the RAFAC organisation and the projects it undertakes, under S.26, the balance lies in favour of withholding the information as releasing it could prejudice the security of the RAFAC. This is because release of this information may be useful to a hostile audience to inform their activities. Similarly, release of the information would demonstrate value for money

and effective contractual processes are in place, under S.43, the balance also lies in favour of withholding the information as releasing it could prejudice the commercial interests of the RAF. This is because revealing details of the MOD's commercial transactions could endanger the department's ability to negotiate in the future with potential commercial partners. Consequently, this information has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information I have attached in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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 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 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 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,

[Original signed]

Air Command Secretariat