



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2020/06498

Mr John Fuerst [by e-mail]
request-662186-d0884cd0@whatdotheyknow.com

11 June 2020

Dear Mr Fuerst,

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 May 2020 in response to a request to clarify your FOI request (05318) of 5 May 2020 in which you asked:

Please provide the means, samples sizes, and standard deviations for the Naval Royal Air Force (RAF) aptitude test by narrow ethnic group for the last 5 years. Ethnicity should be as narrow as possible, e.g. Bangladeshi rather than Asian if that applies to your recording. Preferably, a summary general cognitive scores would be reported, however, we can compute this from the 7 cognitive subtest scores if necessary.

If it is more convenient, please generate this data in a raw format for each individual with ethnicity in one column and results in the other columns. This may be simpler and circumvent restrictions on generating new information.

In your clarification of 14 May you requested the following information:

"I would like 'Royal Air Force' aptitude test scores by narrow ethnic groups for the last 5 years. Please include sample sizes, means, and standard deviations, if available. Ethnicity should be as narrow as possible, e.g. Bangladeshi rather than Asian if that applies to your recording. Preferably, a summary general cognitive score would be reported, however, we can compute this from the 7 cognitive subtest scores if necessary."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information within scope of your request is not held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (advice and assistance), it may be useful for you to know that the ethnicity categorisations on the recruiting IT system does not record the detail of specific ethnicity as per your example of Bangladeshi rather than Asian. Additionally, we do not analyse the data from the aptitude test scores by means of ethnic category; this is

simply because there is an insufficient sample of data in the BAME sub-categories for any reliable statistical analysis to be conducted or any robust conclusion to be drawn.

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 at the address above. 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 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 normally investigate your case until the MOD internal 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