

Spitfire Block
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Clyde Whiting
By Email

Our Ref:
05-04-2012-105818-004

4 May 2012

Dear Mr Whiting

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2012. I am replying as this is an area for which I have responsibility. You requested the following:

Please can you provide the totals of:

- 1. Civilian Instructors recruited since 01/01/2011.*
- 2. NCOs recruited since 01/01/2010.*
- 3. Officers recruited since 01/01/2009.*

And how many in each of those categories still volunteer, as well as their approximate role (Squadron, Wing, etc) in the Air Training Corps (not CCF(RAF)). Please include the number of each category who have changed category (e.g. A Civilian Instructor who becomes an NCO, etc).

Please include any reasoning, anecdotes or evidence to suggest why any recruits have not been retained. This request only applies to adult volunteers who have officially enrolled into the organisation.

This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that we hold some information within the scope of your request.

The table below shows the number of staff recruited in each of the three categories and from the dates requested are as follows: These are the recruited staffs that are still in the organisation.

1. Civilian Instructors recruited since 01/01/2011 = 2040.
2. NCOs recruited since 01/01/10 = 565.
3. Officers recruited since 01/01/2009 = 847.

We do not hold data within the requested timescales on the number of personnel recruited who then subsequently left the organisation. We also do not hold information on the reasons for recruited staff leaving the organisation. Finally, we also hold no information on the number of each category who have changed category within the requested timescales.



For the personnel in these categories, the only method to note their approximate role (Squadron/Wing etc) would be to interrogate each individual personnel record. This would involve reviewing 3,452 records, based on one person reviewing 30-50 records per hour. This could take over 65 working hours which is estimated to cost £1,625 and this would therefore incur disproportionate cost under Section 12 of the Act. In accordance with section 12 of the FOI Act, the MOD is not obliged to comply with a request if the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit (set at £600 for central Government departments). In order to revise or refine your request, in order to bring it into proportionate cost, you would need to request the details for an area of the Air Cadet Organisation containing no more than roughly 300 volunteer staff.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you 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 Head of Corporate Information, 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

[signed]

Secretariat 3a
Air Command

