



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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FOI2020/05472

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Mr C Love  
[request-663605-00af3d9a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-663605-00af3d9a@whatdotheyknow.com)

9 June 2020

Dear Mr Love,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 May 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'What Operational Conversion Unit (OCU) courses are planned for the remainder of 2020 and what are the predicted number of trainee pilots expected per course?' – e.g., Merlin MK 2 OCU; starting October 2020; 3 trainee pilots.  
Merlin MK 3 OCU, starting July 2020, 6 trainee pilots.  
Wildcat OCU, starting Sept 2020, 3 trainee pilots.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However, it is considered that some of the information you require may be exempt from release under section 26 (Defence) of the Act.

**S26 - Defence**

Under section 26(1)(b) of the Act, information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces. It is likely that some of the information may fall within the scope of s26 to the extent that it may reveal operational practices or might otherwise compromise current or future operations or the capability, effectiveness or security of our Armed Forces. As such we are required to conduct a public interest test to weigh up the factors for and against release.

The Act requires us to respond to requests promptly and in no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the

information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such a time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to this request, we plan to let you have a response by 7 July 2020. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will let you know.

I should further advise you that the Government's contingency planning for the Coronavirus pandemic is currently impacting on our ability to process FOI requests. Please be assured that all requests will be actioned as soon as possible, however due to factors beyond our control and the need to adopt remote working practices there may be further delays in processing requests and providing responses. We would therefore ask for your continued patience and understanding during this time.

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](mailto: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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section