



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: 2023/12341

8 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 October 2023 requesting the following information:

Dear Air Cadet Organisation,

Please provide me with copies of documents, Microsoft Teams Messages and emails held which relate to the Military Skills Sprint within the last 6 months. I am happy if you want to just focus on TG5, the TDT, RC Wales and West together with that RC's shooting officer, fieldcraft officer and OC SATT. Where an email is relevant please consider the whole chain and any attachments in scope.

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, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Information in scope of your request is attached at Annex A

Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), it may be useful for you to know that work has not yet commenced on the Military Skills Sprint.

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 us 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@mod.uk). Please note that any reason 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.

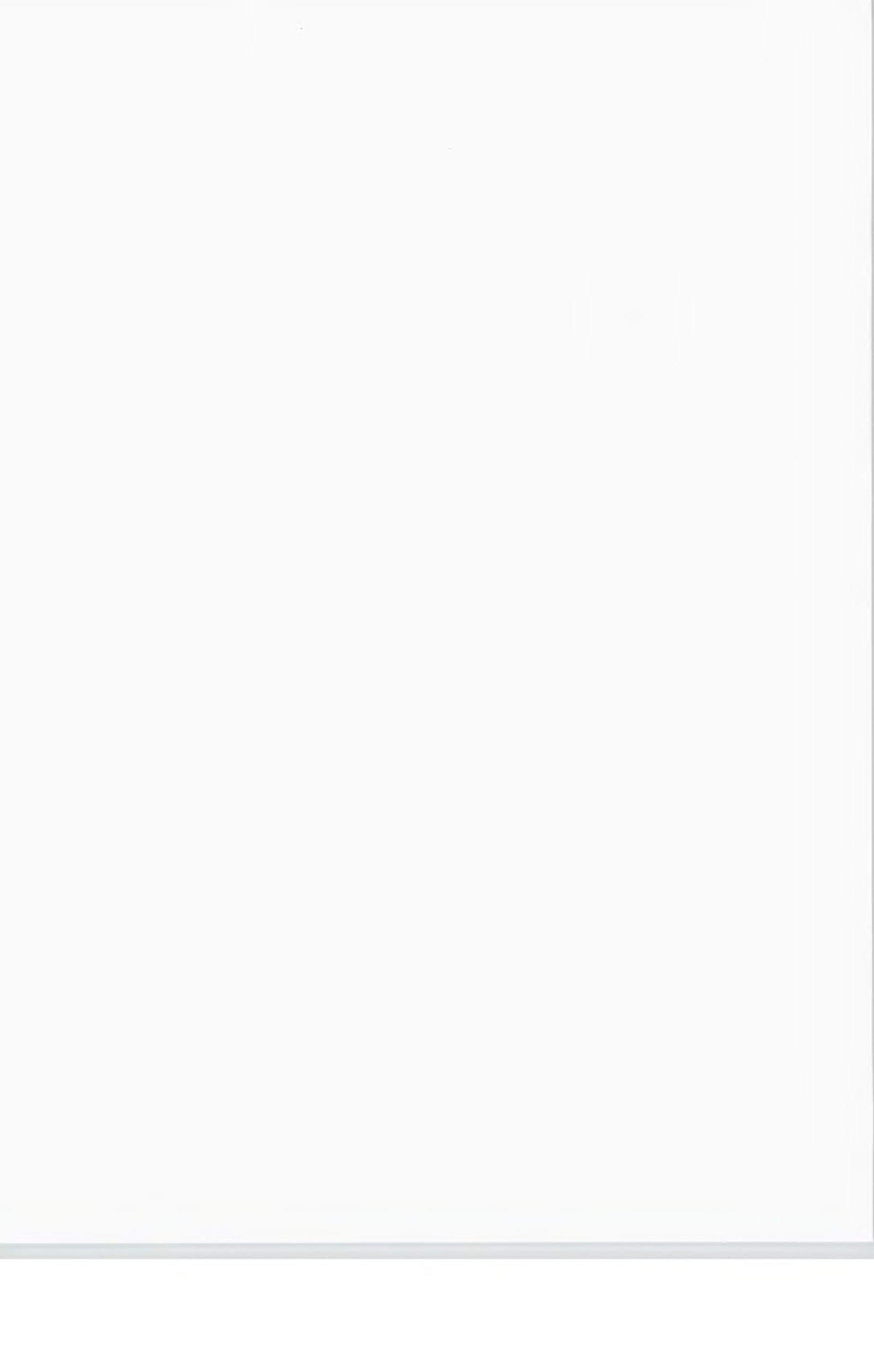
If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal process 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 Commissioners website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed electronically]

Air Command Secretariat

Enc: Annex A



Classification: Official

Current Situation

Aspiration for 2025 and beyond

Blue Camps	Enabling Blue camps at scale is our main priority. The HQ staff are rewriting ACP 237, to ensure it better guides and resources the delivery of an enhanced engagement experience with the RAF.	To transition our Blue Camps into focused multi-activity hubs, concentrating on Combat Air, Mobility, and ISR, whilst nurturing our evolving relationships with the new RAF Command and Control construct. The aspiration is to enhance the RAF experience and enable contribution to the PTS.
National Air & Space Camp	NASC 24 will take place as scheduled with an aspiration to host the RAF SLT, but it will evolve in 2024 with a significant uplift in content for the future.	RAF Syerston presents a fantastic opportunity for us to do more, subject to investment in infrastructure. A team will be formed to look at building on greater utilisation of Syerston for a full summer programme, incorporating. The planning team will work on redesigning Syerston as RAFAC Defence Training Estate (with tents, accommodation, feeding) to introduce a capability to do concurrent National multi-activity camps such as Drill & Ceremonial, music, leadership, and a re-envisioned muster augmented with increased flying opportunities.
RIAT	RIAT is a task mandated by ACAS. Our participation is dependant on us being able to leverage support for our tent procurement requirement from Defence: without tents we cannot participate in RIAT 24 as we have previously. Our experiences from RIAT 22 and 23 have highlighted several key challenges. Being safe and compliant whilst preventing the loss of corporate knowledge and reputational damage is our key focus. We are engaging with RIAT CTE and ACAS to create the conditions for us to participate at scale for 20 24.	The HQ staff are working to enhance our relationship with CTE and ACAS to redesign RIAT to: -Tailor our Support Offer to create Engaging Opportunities for those over 16. -Utilise our Immersive Tech capability to develop a RAFAC village as the centrepiece of our Engagement. -Deploy our Future accommodation solution (tents) and secure centralised catering to support our allocated site -Align our support work with the New, Progressive Training Strategy to develop rewarding experiences for our cadets.
IACE	This requires careful consideration to decide the way forward. We may have to consider attendance numbers and destinations over the next few years due to transport and accommodation issues with a view to solving these challenges in due course.	We will work with IACEA to refocus the exchange to better provide an enhanced experience that goes beyond simply visiting another country. Priority will be given where meaningful flying opportunities and air and space industry experiences gain can be gained.
Muster	We will not run a Muster in 24. Challenges encountered this year, particularly those related to staff planning capacity and enablers, require us to resolve structural delivery issues. We will also utilise the planning opportunity to design an event that better delivers the intent (which includes flying our cadets in large volumes; whilst demonstrating what our organisation and the RAF can offer).	Our vision is to reshape the Muster concept to become a "RAFAC at Home" day, based on (or incorporated into) the NASC model, ensuring that the broadest base of our cadets can benefit substantially. This integration aims to preserve the spirit of Muster but also to extend its reach and impact in a more inclusive and engaging manner.
National Competitions	In alignment with the already published ACSB decision, National Competitions will be paused until 2025. This pause is not a full stop but a strategic breather, ensuring that we take the necessary time to reflect, recalibrate, and reimagine the competitions in a way that aligns with our core objectives and provides the most beneficial and enriching experiences for our cadets.	Looking towards the future, our intent is to reignite a multi-discipline national competition, offering a spectrum of opportunities and experiences that are both rewarding and developmentally valuable for our cadets. The envisioned competition can not only provide a competitive spirit but also for the camaraderie, skills, and experiences it fosters among our cadets.
Royal Air Sqn Trophy Competition - CCF	Despite various factors that will need addressing, the CCF Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition will proceed as it carries substantial external profile and value. This activity, under the directed leadership of the Commandant, is recognised not just for its competitive spirit but also for the camaraderie, skills, and experiences it fosters among our cadets.	Navigating forward, the format of the Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition is under comprehensive review. We are exploring avenues to achieve greater alignment across RAFAC competitions, ensuring that our activities and competitions are not only challenging and enjoyable but also strategically integrated and cohesively planned across all our platforms.
Shooting - Full Bore	Full Bore Shooting remains a pivotal activity significantly enhancing cadets' experiences and skills in precision, discipline, and focus, thereby amplifying our profile. Continuing our shooting activity is essential to maintain our SQEP CFAV DDH safety management system	As we uphold our tradition of excellence in Full Bore Shooting, we acknowledge the need to modernise and align with evolving needs and capabilities. Consequently, we are prioritising the acceleration of the Military Skills Sprint to review our shooting offer, as well as the capabilities required to ensure they are relevant, safe, and continually progressive.
ACL	In light of present constraints, notably accommodation challenges at Cranwell and capacity restrictions within the HQ, a pause on the ACL will take place for 2024. We have a working group to ensure that the future ACLC is enhanced and relevant.	Based on the outcomes of the leadership review, we aim to redesign the leadership training framework completely. Our aspiration is to design an ACLC that delivers Gold level leadership, and contributes to a National Qualification Framework (NQF) up to level 4 for both staff and cadets.

Cosford Air Show	<p>Our support to the Cosford Air Show will continue without an Immersive Tech village in 2024 whilst we focus on this capability for RIAT and NASC. We recognise that the Cosford airshow has a vital role in providing vibrant experiences for our cadets under a Regional construct and this will continue under a Regional construct. We will look at options to incentivise unit attendance with support.</p> <p>We will use the Cosford airshow 2025 to launch the new PTS, using the Immersive Tech village to demonstrate the full range of the cadet offer.</p>
Junior Leaders	<p>There are 2 changes which will impact/enhance the future size, shape and delivery model of JL. Firstly the AOC is changing the Duty Delivery Holding construct of shooting which will necessitate a review of the delivery model. Secondly, the leadership review will ensure that the concept and output of the course are consistent with the aims of the new PTS and accreditation offer.</p>
Music Camps - Concert	<p>We are initiating a focused and intensive development phase, exploring the integration of accreditation into our music programmes. This accreditation will serve as a tangible acknowledgment of the skills, dedication, and artistry our cadets and volunteers bring into our musical endeavours.</p>
Music Camps - Parade	<p>Like the Music Camps - Concert, the Parade initiative will undergo a Music Sprint. This exploration and development phase will focus on creating accreditation pathways and solidifying our cadets' and volunteers' skills and efforts. The influence and engagement strategy within the Sprint will ensure our musical initiatives.</p>
Overseas Expeds	<p>Facing challenges in 2023, we are pausing overseas expeditions to strategically review and reshape them, maintaining exemptions for initiatives like IACE and some activities. Our goal is to ensure future trips are enriching, safe, and holistically beneficial for cadets.</p>
QAIC	<p>A detailed tri-service review will refine our planning and execution for overseas expeditions. Graduates of QAIC will form the core instructional cadre to deliver at Regionalised ASTRA Ground School experiences. The QAIC course model will be reimaged to expand to include space and cyber specialisations to become instructors.</p>
Road Marching - Nijmegen	<p>Nijmegen remains the gold standard for the Roadmarching element of our PTS. We will work with the BMC to increase the numbers of slots available, enhance the safe delivery of the event and improve the cadet facilities available. We will continue to pursue policy changes and technological solutions to the monitoring of core body temperatures in children to give us more latitude in the current regulatory framework.</p>
Road Marching - Qualifying	<p>We aim to amplify the impact, reach, and inclusivity of our Road Marching events, leveraging our experiences and technologies to create a framework that elevates our traditions, enables wider participation, and ensures enriched experiences, with every step taken signifying excellence, camaraderie, and RAFAC's unwavering spirit.</p>
Super Camps	<p>Moving forward, we aim to revitalize our Super Camps using a 'hub and spoke' model to deliver multi-activity camps across various timelines, such as Easter, Summer, and Whit, with an aspiration to broaden our cadets' experiences while maintaining a steadfast commitment to quality, safety, and enrichment.</p>
Cyber Gold	<p>A comprehensive review of the Blue to Gold program is scheduled for 2025 to ensure its content and experiences are contemporary and aligned with our broader aspirations, thereby providing a cohesive and future-oriented development path. Post-review, we aim to refine Cyber Gold as a platform that synchronizes with our cadets' evolving needs and the dynamic cybersecurity landscape.</p>
Drill & Ceremonial Camp	<p>Moving forward, the camp will become part of a larger 'at home' event, expanding and elevating the experience by integrating it with our new progressive training syllabus, thereby merging tradition with dynamic learning and development for our cadets.</p>
Music Camps - Choir & Strings	<p>Our focus is on introducing accredited pathways in our musical offerings and devising a strategy to expand RAFAC's influence and engagement through our music programs.</p>

Music Camps - Pipes	<p>A detailed review of the Music Camps - Pipes is underway to align with evolving participant needs. A strategic pause on Overseas Camps is set for 2023, allowing for a detailed tri-service review, with an unwavering focus on safety and cadet value. Exceptions will be made for specific activities like IACE and certain niche programs.</p>	Initiating a Music Sprint, we aim to integrate structured accreditation and refine our engagement strategy, ensuring our musical endeavors resonate with and uphold RAFAC values and objectives.
Overseas Camps	<p>In 2023, we're pausing and meticulously reviewing Overseas Road Marching activities due to significant challenges. A hold is applied to general overseas activity, allowing exceptions for IACE and niche activities, as we refine our planning and ensure cadet safety and enriched experiences through a detailed tri-service review.</p>	From 2025 we intend to revitalize our overseas program based on accessible PJOBS
Road Marching - Other Overseas		Moving forward, the aspiration is to seamlessly integrate overseas road marching into our wider expeditions process to enhance safe delivery mechanisms. We aim to not only resume but also revitalize overseas road marching, ensuring safe, well-coordinated, and enriching experiences abroad for our cadets.

