



OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

Expressions of interest are invited for two uniformed and one civil service position within the RAF Occupational Medicine cadre. You will work alongside the existing team of nine consultants and three trainees to deliver a full range of OH interventions for RAF service personnel. You will also provide specialist medical advice to Senior Staff and to Unit Commanders. To deliver our required outputs, the OM Cadre works closely with colleagues from the Occupational Health, Environmental Health and Public Health specialties.

Now is an exciting time to be joining RAF Medical Services. In common with much of Defence, significant re-structuring and re-organisation is presently underway and you will have your opportunity to say how new structures develop and how they operate. As is presently common in public service, our cadre is expected to achieve more, using less and to do it in a more timely fashion. We see this as a challenge. More importantly, we see it as an achievable challenge. If, like us, you're motivated to pursue high quality OM service provision for our primary customer (32,500 RAF personnel) and if you're motivated to provide Air Power focused OM expertise for an employer who regularly features as one of the top ten in the UK – then we'd very much like to hear from you.

QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING - Applicants should be fully registered with the GMC and should have MFOM or FFOM. Specialty registrars who have a satisfactory penultimate ARCP and are within six months of CCT will also be considered. Previous military experience and possession of the Dip Av Med are desirable but are not essential.

JOB CONTENT - Applicants to the uniformed posts will undertake eleven weeks of basic military training at RAF College Cranwell before undertaking a further five weeks of generic medical training that are common to all RAF Medical Services Officers. This will include basic aviation medicine and an introduction to deployed Operations. Following this basic induction package, applicants will work in a supported environment alongside colleagues at the RAF Medical Board (RAF MB) and Regional Occupational Medicine Departments (ROMDs) for a period of two years. During this time they will acquire a firm grasp of RAF Medical Policy and day to day employment practices. On completion of this supported induction package you will be a military and air minded RAF Medical Officer and will be eligible to undertake any RAF OM role. Flexibility in this pathway is possible and will depend on previous relevant experience.

Applicants to the civil service role will not undertake military training and will be employed solely at the RAF Medical Board. This position is more likely to suit an experienced colleague who seeks career stability. Recruitment to this post is via a separate (Civil Service c.f. RAF) mechanism. Expressions of interest are invited and potential applicants will be directed as appropriate.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT- OM personnel are employed in a wide variety of patient facing and non-patient facing roles: -

The RAF Medical Board undertakes fitness for work decision making for all RAF personnel who are not expected to recover fully from an illness or injury. The Board also advises and adjudicates on complex cases and difficult individual risk management decisions. It is common to undertake literature reviews to support risk management decision making and to develop or update policy. This organization is the equivalent body to the Civil Aviation Authority's medical advisory panel.

Regional Occupational Medicine Departments undertake return to work assessments and facilitate the 'on the job' rehabilitation of injured and sick personnel. Unlike civilian OM practice, ROMDs are also empowered to ensure that rehabilitation is not permitted to 'drift'. ROMDs are also the first point of contact for the investigation of outbreaks or enquiries concerning workplace exposures to physical, chemical and biological agents. We also have some quite nice machinery to look over ...

There are a number of policy and administrative roles available within the RAF and also more widely within tri-Service Defence which are suitable for OM qualified personnel. These may cover general OM practice or be more specifically focused on aviation medicine. In addition to these specialist roles, all Medical Officers are encouraged to develop their leadership skills. Those who rise to this additional challenge will have the opportunity to develop a career in Higher Medical Management.

Those who are not in patient facing roles are expected to maintain their consulting skills.