

Legal Officer

Delivering high quality, effective and operationally focused legal services to the Royal Air Force and Defence.

As an organisation employing over thirty-thousand personnel, operating aircraft and airfields, in the UK and overseas, in peacetime and armed conflict, the RAF generates innumerable and varied legal challenges. Law in the RAF addresses the rules and regulations of the organisation, society at large and the international community. Legal Officers play a central role in ensuring the RAF functions smoothly within these frameworks.

Your responsibilities could include:

- Advising military commanders and staff in national, coalition and Allied environments on domestic and international humanitarian law;
- Advising on military law, air law, employment law, European law, health and safety and environmental law;
- Development and drafting of legislation in relation to the Armed Forces;
- Acting as Legal Adviser to Service Inquiry panels in relation to their investigations;
- Advocacy for the defence or prosecution at Courts Martial, Service Civilian Courts and Summary Appeal Courts;
- Advising both military police and commanders in relation to criminal investigations, evidence gathering, interviewing, and pre- and post-charge custody;
- Advising personnel of all ranks on the Armed Forces Act 2006 and procedures and regulations that apply to the RAF and wider Defence;
- Providing legal training across the full breadth of ranks and branches of the RAF.

Like most officers in the RAF, you will move jobs every few years, and each job is known as a *tour*. You could receive your first overseas move, or '*posting*', immediately after your Initial Officer Training and specialist training. Overseas postings normally last between two and three years.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Initial Officer Training

Like all our Specialist Branch officers, you will begin your RAF career on the Specialist Officers Initial Training Course (SOITC) at the RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. You will follow a 12-week course specially designed for professionally qualified entrants. The course includes fitness development, military training and academic study as well as practical outdoor leadership challenges.

Specialist Training

As a fully qualified solicitor or barrister, you will already have the core legal skills to do your job. However, during your induction training at the Directorate of Legal Services (RAF) you will receive an introduction to those aspects of law in the RAF that may not be familiar to you, with more in-depth training in areas relevant to your first posting being provided by the team to which you are assigned. Thereafter, you will benefit from a full programme of training together with hands-on experience to develop you as a legal officer throughout your career. You will be offered opportunities to develop and experience new areas of legal practice, including international humanitarian law, as well as the same through-life Professional Military Development as all other RAF officers.

Legal Officer

Minimum Age:

When completed professional/education qualifications.

Maximum Age: 47

Must have entered SOIT by 48th birthday.

A full UK driving license will be required
Applicants will be expected to gain Developed Vetting upon their first posting.

Qualifications:

You must be either a member of the Bar of England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland and have completed pupillage, or be a solicitor admitted to the Roll of England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. In addition, applicants will ideally have at least 2yrs PQE in a relevant area of law. Applications from legal executives will not be processed.

You must also have GCSEs at a minimum of Grade C or equivalent or Scottish National Equivalent in English Language and Mathematics.

Foundation Tour

For your first tour, you could be posted to a Regional Legal Office on a major operational flying station in the UK, to our legal offices in Cyprus, to the Commercial or RAF Service Complaints Team at RAF High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire or the Service Prosecuting Authority in RAF Northolt. You will work under the guidance of senior officers and receive training in order to develop both your knowledge of new areas of law and your potential as a RAF officer.

Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant on an Initial Commission of 6 years. After a period of productive service, on selection for promotion to Squadron Leader your commission will be extended to 12 years and, thereafter, on selection for promotion to Wing Commander a commission of 20 years' service or to age 40, whichever is the latter. A further extension of your commission of up to 30 years' Service (or to age 60) is also possible on promotion to Group Captain. Some posts within the branch become available only when appropriate experience and rank has been gained.

Ongoing Development

In accordance with Bar Council or Law Society policy guidance, you will be able to maintain your Continuing Professional Development currency through a combination of accredited external and internal legal training. Each year you will also attend the DLS(RAF) Conference, which will not only provide updates in various areas of Law but will also allow you to take part in leadership- and teamwork-based activities. There will also be opportunities to improve your leadership skills through both military training and Force development events, such as Orienteering.

Transferable skills

As a Legal Officer in the RAF, you will have all the developmental opportunities and career prospects of your civilian counterparts, but with the added benefit of having the chance to work around the world and gain unique experience of the law. In addition, you will have the opportunity to develop leadership and managerial skills which are unrivalled in the civilian legal world.

Residency:

Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application.

Selection:

You must pass a specialist interview where your professional suitability will be assessed. You will then be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

Pay: For current information visit:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/personnel-support/legal-officer>

Nationality:

You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

A Modern Force:

The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.

To register your interest in this role online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/personnel-support/legal-officer>

or

Telephone:

0345 605 5555

This information was last updated in 05 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

Search online for other branches both Regular and Reserve
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO
ORDINARY
JOB**