



From: DCDS Pers Secretariat
Zone J, Seventh Floor,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, London, SW1A 2HB.

Our Reference:

21-03-2011-114944-007

Date: 30 March 2011

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 March which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It has been passed to my department and I have been asked to respond.

You asked the following question:

“How many men and how many women have, as serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, sought to be conscientious objectors in each of the following years: 1970 - 2011? Can you break down the yearly figures by gender? Can you indicate which were successful and which went to ACCO? Please supply me with separate figures for each service and each year.”

The Ministry of Defence has a well-established procedure for Service personnel who, during their service, develop a genuine conscientious objection to further military service. Such cases are handled administratively by the Service concerned and are dealt with initially by the individual's chain of command. If the conscientious objection is considered genuine, arrangements are made for the applicant to be discharged from the Services on compassionate grounds.

The number of applications received for discharge from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force on grounds of moral, religious or political objection is set out below; unfortunately I have been unable to break these figures down by gender. Currently there is no information for 2011.

Royal Navy

There is no historical information held for 1970.

Year	Applied as Conscientious Objector	Successful	Unsuccessful	Independent Appeal Process through Advisory Committee
1971	3	0	3	3 (Unsuccessful)
1972	7	0	7	1 (Successful) 6 (Unsuccessful)
1973	0	0	0	0
1974	0	0	0	0

Year	Applied as Conscientious Objector	Successful	Unsuccessful	Independent Appeal Process through Advisory Committee
1975	0	0	0	0
1976	0	0	0	0
1977	0	0	0	0
1978	1	0	1	1 (Successful)
1979	0	0	0	0
1980	0	0	0	0
1981	1	1	0	0
1982	0	0	0	0
1983	2	2	0	0
1984	6	6	0	0
1985	2	2	0	0
1986	6	6	0	0
1987	1	1	0	0
1988	2	2	0	0
1989	4	4	0	0
1990	9	8	1	1 (Successful)
1991	3	2	1	1 (Unsuccessful)
1992	0	0	0	0
1993	0	0	0	0
1994	0	0	0	0
1995	0	0	0	0
1996	2	2	0	0
1997	0	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	1	1	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	3	2	1	0
2007	1	0	1	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	1	0	1	1 (Unsuccessful)
Total	55	39	16	3 Successful 11 Unsuccessful

Army

For the period requested there was 1 applicant (1991) who applied for conscientious objector status, no other information is held.

Royal Air Force

There is no historical information held for the period 1970 – 2000.

Year	Applied as Conscientious Objector	Successful	Unsuccessful	Independent Appeal Process through Advisory Committee
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	2	2	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	2	2	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
Year	Applied as	Successful	Unsuccessful	Independent Appeal

	Conscientious Objector			Process through Advisory Committee
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	0	0

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

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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, 1st Floor, Zone N, 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>.