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XXXXXXXXXX

Date: 15 April 2011
Reference FOI: 03-12-2010-120740-002

Dear XXXXXXXX

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 December 2010 that has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please, first accept my apologies for the delay in replying. You requested the following information:

“- Number of applicants to the Armed Forces in each of the last 5 years. Please provide a breakdown by service branch.

- Number of people who joined the Armed Forces in each of the last 5 years. Please provide a breakdown by service branch.

- Number of people who had their applications rejected at the basic entry standards stage in each of the last 5 years.

For the number of rejected applications, please provide a breakdown by reason rejected e.g.

Age, Nationality (please state their nationality), fitness, medical, academic. For each of these categories, please provide a further breakdown to go into more detail about the reason for rejection, e.g. for age – too young/too old. For medical – reasons for failing army medical.

I appreciate that medical records constitute sensitive personal information but I anticipate that the numbers involved here will be large enough to prevent any identification of individuals. When you provide a breakdown of the medical reasons, please do not go into more detail than “eyesight problem” or “endocrine problem” for example.”

Please find below the information you requested:

Number of applications to the Armed Forces in the last 5 years for –

Royal Navy

Years	No of Royal Navy applications
05/06	12,919
06/07	12,866
07/08	11,316
08/09	14,312
09/10	18,070
10/11 (to 31 Dec 10)	13,822

Army

Years	No of Army applications
06/07	24,981
07/08	17,044
08/09	27,103
09/10	24,745
10/11	13,972

Royal Air Force

Years	No of Royal Air Force applications
05/06	9767
06/07	9488
07/08	12,527
08/09	17,626
09/10	12,283

2. The Number of people who joined the Armed Forces in each of the last 5 years can be found on the DASA website (www.dasa.mod.uk) at the following link:

<http://bravo.dasa.r.mil.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2010/chapter2.php>

3. Number of people who had their applications rejected at the basic entry standards stage in each of the last 5 years.

Royal Navy

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Age	38	52	63
Education	55	93	82
Delinquency/Crime/Discipline	166	370	168
Fitness/BMI	54	122	140
Failed to Attend	190	546	798
Finance	27	39	18
Medical	613	1404	1061
Motivation/Commitment	64	168	217

Nationality/Residency/Visa	50	81	42
Test/interview failure	2404	4864	4753
Not Selected or Short listed	127	75	79
Security/CRB	7	12	6
Substance misuse	15	28	11
Tattoo/Piercing	79	173	118
Previous Service	18	68	81
Other	1515	466	369
Grand Total Rejections	5422	8561	8006

Notes:

1. This information reflects rejection at all stages of the recruitment process, not just the basic entry standards stage.
2. Information held on paper relating to rejected recruits is currently held for 3 years before it is destroyed. A change to the way data is recorded in 2008 now means we capture all reasons for rejection.
3. Figures include only those applying for RN/RM Regular Service Officers and Other Ranks.

Army

Reasons	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
After Offer of service	1		1		
Age		3	1	1	1
Attitude	3	2	2	15	3
Basic Skills			1	3	1
BMI		2	1		2
Change of mind	4				
Continuing Education	1	1		1	1
Deferral for period of time	10	7	5		
Deferral to Dentist	1	3			
Deferral to G.P.	14	28	7		
Deferral to Optician	1	5	3		
Delinquency/Crime	5	3	6	5	3
Discipline	3	3	4	13	3
Drugs				3	
Duplicate record		1		2	
Education	1	1	3	4	
Eligibility event result	3	5	2	3	2
Employment - civilian job	1	4	1	3	1
Failed to Attend	5	5	8	20	4
Family/Personal	1			1	
Family/Personal Reasons	1	5	5		
Finance	2		1	1	
Fitness	10	13	17	20	6
Fitness (Self certified)		2	3	3	1
Further Education Opportunity			1	2	
Further Selection/Aptitude		2			
Joining other service	1		2	1	
Language Ability	1	6		1	
Language Ability - English Speaking & Listening	2	1	17	24	3
Maturity/Development	1	1	6	4	

Medical	261	315	301	257	142
Medical Criteria	31	26	167	200	86
Medical (Self certified)	7	7	8	6	7
Motivation	4	1	1		
Motivation/Commitment	22	17	33	57	25
Nationality			1	1	1
Non productive enquiry	48	42	51	53	27
Not Selected Final	1	1	3	5	
Not Short listed	1				
Other employment		1			1
Part 2 Medical (Selection only)	8	8	3	2	
PQAP/Character Defects	1		1		
Previous Service	3	4	1	2	
PSO Discretion	1	2	1		
Psychometric test result		3	1		
Residency		1			
Robustness		3	3	7	2
Security/CRB			2		1
Substance misuse		1	2	1	
Suitability			1		
Suitability event result	2	1	2	11	
Tattoo/Piercing	4	5			
Terms & Conditions of Service	1	1	1		1
Trainability		1	11	14	5
Travel			1		
Unsuitable at Interview (Encourage)					1
Unsuitable at Interview (Permanent)	3	5	17	31	9
Unsuitable for Job Choice		2	3	1	1
Visa	1	2		2	1
Withdrawn at Recruit Selection Centre	138	40	7	3	1
Total:	609	592	719	783	342

Army Notes/Caveats:

1. Some individuals have more than 1 entry
2. The Army input attached is for Regular Army personnel only.
3. Basic Entry Standards has been interpreted to be equivalent to the Army Development and Selection Centre selection activity (Applicants) and does not relate to rejections at the earlier stage of the process.
4. After Allocation/After Offer of Service - this happens for the following reasons - delinquency, substance misuse or if they cannot be granted a security clearance. Sometimes, an individual's personal circumstances may change in a way that prevents them from accepting an offer of service.

Royal Air Force

Disposal Category	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
After Allocation	8	14	110	379	70
After Offer of Service	2	12	41	92	19
Age	1	2	3	305	424
Basic Skills	0	0	1	7	7
BMI	0	3	4	38	32
Care Order	0	0	1	9	16
Current Operations	2	0	1	12	20
Delinquency/ Crime	4	10	50	515	479

Discipline	0	0	0	19	16
Education	16	25	100	1645	1599
Eligibility Event Result	0	3	15	179	134
Employment - Civilian Job	6	7	64	513	261
Failed to Attend	16	37	203	2940	1967
Family/ Personal Reasons	6	19	108	748	320
Finance	0	0	1	34	15
Fitness	9	28	121	689	637
Fitness (Self Certified)	2	3	23	148	75
Further Education Opportunity	0	3	31	178	63
Joining Other Service	3	11	28	203	109
Language Ability - English Speaking and listening	0	0	0	4	1
Medical	43	85	367	2738	1558
Medical (Self Certified)	14	25	102	650	480
Motivation/ Commitment	2	4	12	84	69
Nationality	0	1	1	28	34
Not Selected Final	649	652	739	627	396
Not Short listed	2	2	18	127	75
Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) Part 1 Aptitude	0	0	155	437	425
OASC Part 1 Interview	0	0	14	4	5
Other	61	464	1680	12358	17272
Part 2 Medical (selection only)	0	0	4	13	6
Pay	0	0	3	17	7
Previous Service	2	2	14	114	63
Psychometric Test Result	15	30	173	1302	611
Psychometric Test Result (Trade)	14	41	107	1494	1422
Refusal of Parental Consent	0	0	2	3	3
Residency	2	1	22	365	357
Security/ CRB	2	2	4	24	15
Substance Misuse	5	4	41	434	181
Suitability Event Result	4	10	51	357	248
Tattoo/ Piercing	3	6	3	190	171
Terms and Conditions of service	0	0	5	22	13
Unsuitable at Interview (Encourage)	33	80	369	2506	1615
Unsuitable at Interview (Permanent)	7	9	87	469	217
Visa	0	0	0	10	2
Not Recorded	41492	37247	35652	4581	0
TOTAL	42425	38842	40530	37601	31509

Note: This information may include duplicate records. For example, candidate A was rejected on first application due to residency in 2005 then reapplied in 2009 and was rejected again for medical.

3b. “For the number of rejected applications, please provide a breakdown by reason rejected e.g.

Age, Nationality (please state their nationality), fitness, medical, academic. For each of these categories, please provide a further breakdown to go into more detail about the reason for rejection, e.g. for age – too young/too old. For medical – reasons for failing army medical. I appreciate that medical records constitute sensitive personal information but I anticipate that the numbers involved here will be large enough to prevent any identification of individuals. When you provide a breakdown of the

medical reasons, please do not go into more detail than “eyesight problem” or “endocrine problem” for example.”

Answer –

No information is held for the category of Medical because the Data protection act prohibits that we disclose this information for statistical purposes. For fitness, the information is not broken down to that level of detail as the reason for failing a fitness test is not specified but rather a pass or fail is recorded. For Age, Nationality and Academic, to provide this data would mean manually trawling through thousands of records. For example, for academic alone, to show all qualifications (types / subjects / grades and Basic Skills etc) declared for each candidate would exceed the cost set limit. This limit is specified in FOI regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under the terms of Section 12 of the FOI Act, this means that we are not obliged to comply with your request.

I am sorry that I am not in a position to fully answer your questions but hope that you find the information above to be helpful.

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>.

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