



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2015/09594

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

27 November 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 30 October requesting the following information:

I would like to know how many members of the armed forces (including reserves and territorial army) have failed fitness tests in the past five years. Ideally I would like a yearly break down of data.

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It is a condition of service that personnel must be fit and healthy and the vast majority pass the regular, challenging fitness tests. If they fail they are put on a targeted programme to help them back to the required levels.

Each Service (Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force) are responsible for the fitness tests of their personnel, and each record fitness test failures slightly differently.

ROYAL NAVY (RN)

The Royal Navy record their Fitness Test results by calendar year, and information is only available for their regulars, not reserves. It also does not include figures for the Royal Marines.

Year	Number of RN personnel who have failed a Fitness Test
2011	920
2012	860
2013	750
2014	730
2015	750

ARMY

The Army also record their Fitness Test results by calendar year. Please note that only individuals included on strength at the end of the training year are included. Also, even if individuals have subsequently taken the test in year and passed, the initial failure is still recorded.

Year	Number of Army personnel who have failed a Fitness Test	
	Regular	Reserve
2011	12960	4640
2012	10900	4410
2013	10480	4680
2014	9320	4470
2015	7980	3220

ROYAL AIR FORCE (RAF)

The Royal Air Force record their Fitness Test results by financial years. Please note that only individuals included on strength at 1 April following the end of the financial year are included.

Year	Number of RAF personnel who have failed a Fitness Test	
	Regular	Reserve
2010/2011	3950	380
2011/2012	3100	250
2012/2013	2090	220
2013/2014	1760	150
2014/2015	1580	200

It should be noted that all totals are rounded in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy; therefore totals may not equal the sum of their parts. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid bias.

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://ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat