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XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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28 November 2017

Dear XXXXXXXX

Thank you for your email of 3 November in which you requested the following information:

1. *How many soldiers aged 40 years and over attended the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon between January 2013 and now, and how many of these soldiers passed the course?*
2. *What was the average age of soldiers who attended the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course between 2013 and now?*
3. *What was the average age of soldiers who attended the Section Commanders Battle Course between January 2013 and now?*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and has been provided below. Information relating to the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course includes those attending the Tactics Phase 2 or the Live Fire Tactical Training Phase 2. These are two separate parts of the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course. Some soldiers may only need to attend one part.

In answer to part one of your request, the number of Army soldiers who took either phase of the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Courses, between January 2013 and 3 November 2017 is five. Less than five Army soldiers passed either phase of the course. Please note that figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

In answer to part two and three of your request, the average age of soldiers who attended the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course between 2013 and the present was 29 years old. The average age of those attending the Section Commanders' Battle Course was 26 years old. Unrounded figures were used in the calculation of percentages.

The figures above are single service estimates only and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you still wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

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Army Secretariat