



# Ministry of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom

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E-mail: [ArmySec-Group@mod.uk](mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.uk)

Website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

[Redacted]

9 August 2017

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 10 July in which you requested the following information:

*'1) The number of applications to join the British Army received during the years 2015, 2016 and up to June 2017, broken down by applications received in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.*

*2) The number of applications during the period detailed above which were rejected, broken down by reason for rejection.*

*3) The number of applications rejected on the basis that the applicant had previously used or been prescribed antidepressant medicine(s).'*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Information requested in parts one and two of your information in scope of your request is held and is detailed in the tables below. Information requested in part three of your response is not held.

Table 1: Applications by UK region from which they were made and Financial Year

| Region       | FY 15/16      | FY 16/17       | FY 17/18 as at 30 Jun 17 |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| England      | 74,600        | 101,530        | 24,270                   |
| Scotland     | 8,210         | 10,740         | 2,620                    |
| Wales        | 5,310         | 6,690          | 1,600                    |
| NI           | 3,340         | 3,940          | 1,110                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>91,460</b> | <b>122,890</b> | <b>29,590</b>            |

- Only completed and processed applications are included in the figures above.

Table 2: Rejections by reason and Financial Year

| Category  | FY 15/16      | FY 16/17      | FY 17/18 as at 30 Jun 17 |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Age   | 550           | 600           | 50                       |
| Basic Skills                                    | -             | -             | -                        |
| BMI   | 190           | 590           | 180                      |
| Care order                                      | -             | -             | -                        |
| Delinquency/Crime                               | 230           | 250           | 40                       |
| Discipline                                      | 10            | 20            | -                        |
| Education                                       | 2,070         | 2,590         | 620                      |
| Eligibility event result                        | 220           | 70            | -                        |
| Failed at UOTC                                  | 10            | -             | -                        |
| Failed to Attend                                | 3,100         | 4,580         | 820                      |
| Finance   | -             | -             | -                        |
| Fitness   | 10            | -             | -                        |
| Language Ability - English Speaking & Listening | 10            | 10            | -                        |
| Medical   | 14,240        | 20,430        | 4,050                    |
| Motivation/Commitment                           | 910           | 620           | 70                       |
| Nationality                                     | 210           | 220           | 60                       |
| Not Selected Final                              | 10            | -             | -                        |
| Not Short listed                                | -             | -             | -                        |
| OASC Part 1 Interview                           | -             | -             | -                        |
| Other - Refer to Journal                        | 1,950         | 1,140         | 150                      |
| Part 2 Medical (Selection only)                 | -             | -             | -                        |
| Previous Service                                | 440           | 800           | 290                      |
| Psychometric test result                        | -             | -             | -                        |
| Psychometric test result (Trade)                | -             | 10            | -                        |
| Residency                                       | 1,820         | 6,610         | 610                      |
| Security/CRB                                    | -             | -             | -                        |
| Substance misuse                                | -             | -             | -                        |
| Suitability event result                        | 20            | 10            | -                        |
| Tattoo/Piercing                                 | 780           | 660           | 80                       |
| Unsuitable at Interview (Encourage)             | 10            | 10            | -                        |
| Unsuitable at Interview (Permanent)             | 10            | 20            | -                        |
| Visa  | 290           | 490           | 40                       |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                              | <b>27,130</b> | <b>39,740</b> | <b>7,070</b>             |

- Any applications made from outside England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have been excluded from both tables. Applications in one year may not be completed in that same year; therefore Table 2 information is not a subset of Table 1.
- Individuals are only included once in Table 2 for the primary rejection reason.
- Figures provided for both tables include Regulars, Reserves, Officers and Soldiers.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10; numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
- “-” denotes zero or rounded to zero.
- Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

- Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.
- Please note that these figures 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

If you 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,

  
Army Secretariat