



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

29 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 01 June 2016 requesting the following information:

- 1) Number of applicants to the RAF in the role of Registered Nurse (Adult) in the last three years - broken down by gender if possible;*
- 2) The percentage of recruits completing Recruit Training - again by gender if possible;*
- 3) Percentage completing Specialist Training;*
- 4) Average length of service for RN (Adult) by gender if possible;*
- 5) Percentage chance of serving beyond 12 years;*
- 6) Rate of average progression by time spent in each rank from Aircraftsman (AC) to Acting Rank Corporal (AR Cpl) to Corporal to Sergeant to Flight Sergeant to Warrant Officer*
- 7) The percentage chance of achieving a commission from the ranks.*

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

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. I will answer each of your questions in turn.

The number of applicants to the RAF in the role of Registered Nurse received in each of the last three years, broken down by gender, can be found in the table below. Applications have only been counted once per reporting year.

Non-Commissioned Applications	2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	Registered Nurse (Adult)	80	20	80	10	80
Sum:	80	20	80	10	80	20

All student nurses enter and complete phase 1 basic training before continuing onto their nurse training at Birmingham City University.

There are 229 specialist nurses in 11 specialist cadres. Of those nurses selected to undertake specialist training within the Princess Mary RAF Nursing Service all successfully completed their training.

The average Return of Service for the role of registered nurse for females is 10 years 6 months and for males is 12 years 9 months; this data refers to the average total length of Service on exit. Information contained in questions 4-7 reflect the Nurses trade as a whole and includes Registered Nurse (Mental Health).

The average percentage chance of serving beyond 12 years can be found in the table below;

Length of Service	Percentage chance of reaching length of Service
12 Years	35%
13 Years	29%
14 Years	28%
15 Years	23%
16 Years	21%
17 Years	20%
18 Years	20%
19 Years	18%
20 Years	18%
21 Years	18%
22 Years	11%

The information contained in the table below relating to average length of Service on promotion has been calculated during the period 2009/10 – 2015/16 and is a guideline only.

Rank	Average total length of Service on promotion
Aircraftman/Leading Aircraftman	N/A
Senior Aircraftman	1 year
Corporal	3 years
Sergeant	7 years 1 month

Flight Sergeant

14 Years 11 months

Warrant Officer

19 years 5 months

The percentage chance of achieving a commission from the ranks is difficult to calculate as this is dependent on there being an opening in the commissioned cadre and a serving other rank meeting the criteria. However, I can tell you that the percentage of personnel who have commissioned from the ranks during 2009/10 – 2015/16 is approximately 8%.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 2nd Floor, 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>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat
Air Command