



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Navy)

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Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 23 September requesting the following information:

“1. The average length of service (LoS), broken down by gender, serving in the Royal Navy in the trade of Medical Assistant 2. Average LoS to achieve the rank of Leading Medical Assistant for the last 5 years 3. Average LoS to achieve the rank of Petty Officer (PO) Medical Assistant 4. Average LoS to achieve the rank of Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Medical Assistant 5. Of those offered Extension of /service (whether by the trade of MA or across all trade) what percentage have taken up 5 and 10 year extensions 6. Is the trade of RN Nurse a direct career progression for an MA and is it possible for an MA to transfer to another trade 7. In the absence of the requisite A Level qualifications for the Nursing Degree, would previous experience as an MA be an acceptable alternative or would there be opportunities to improve existing qualifications in order to meet the entry criteria?”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found enclosed below.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note 5, 10 and 15 year extensions of career are offered by the service via a board process and are termed ‘Extensions of Career’ or ‘ES3’ (ES3 is the new terminology as of this year). Extensions of Service (EoS) are usually between six months and two years. EoS is offered on an individual basis and there is not a formal process to capture and therefore measure the number of offers. As a result, question 5 has been answered using Career Extension offers.

Table 1. Average Length of Service (LoS) by gender for trained regular Royal Navy Medical Assistants as of 1 September 2015

| Gender | Average LoS |
|--------|------------------|
| Male | 9 years 4 months |
| Female | 8 years 1 month |

Table 2. Average Length of Service (LoS) to achieve the paid rank of Leading Hand (OR4), Petty Officer (OR6) and Chief Petty Officer (OR7) Medical Assistant for the past 7 years¹ to April 2015

| Paid rank | Average LoS |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Leading Hand (OR4) | 6 years 9 months |
| Petty Officer (OR6) | 11 years 10 months |
| Chief Petty Officer (OR7) | 16 years 11 months |

Table 3. Percentage² of take ups of 5 and 10 year Extended Careers (EC) for Medical Assistants (MA) between 2011 and 2015

| Year ³ | Percentage of take ups |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 2011 | 75% |
| 2012 | 67% |
| 2013 | 77% |
| 2014 | 65% |
| 2015 ⁴ | 64% |
| 2011-2015 | 71% |

Question 6. Is the trade of RN Nurse a direct career progression for an MA and is it possible for an Medical Assistant to transfer to another trade?

The trade of Nurse is wholly different from MA and there is no linked progression from MA to Nurse. Nurses are qualified in entirely the same manner as any Nurse of the same specialisation in the civilian work arena. Just like any trade transfer an MA would require manning clearance as the first step along the path of changing branches.

Question 7. In the absence of the requisite A Level qualifications for the Nursing Degree, would previous experience as an MA be an acceptable alternative or would there be opportunities to improve existing qualifications in order to meet the entry criteria?

Entry qualifications are set by universities on their UCAS requirements that may alter on an annual basis, invariably based on a combined A level points system, there is no acceptance of any substitute work based experience to make up any of these points. As with any service person, access to education and qualifications is through the NETS network and access and funding is fully supported through the RN.

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, 1st 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Stickney
Defence Statistics (Navy)

Notes

¹ The calculation of average length of service on promotion uses a career forecast tool, which uses the past 7 years rather than 5. By using the career forecast tool it maintains consistency between other Average LoS outputs. The career forecast tool uses data up to 1 April 2015.

² Percentages are calculated by counting the number of service persons who changed to their new EC contract divided by the number of service persons who were offered an EC contract as published by NAVY PERS-PROM

³ The year the EC was offered. The take up of the offer may have taken place in a subsequent year.

⁴ EC contracts offered in August 2015 have been omitted due to an insufficient time to capture all individuals who have subsequently changed to their new EC contract. All March 2015 EC offers have been included, however, some may have accepted their EC offer but have yet to change their contract. This may affect the percentage of take ups.