



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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2017-07904

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7 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 August 2017 requesting the following information on:

- *The number of RMORs, by rank, age and specialisation who are currently serving on an ES3 of 5, 10 and 15 years.*
- *Details of your current forecast for offers of ES3 (5, 10 and 15 years) to RMORs for next seven years by rank and specialisation.*
- *Details of which specialisations are OPPs.*

Thank very much you for seeking clarification.

As you suggest I would like the figures of all personnel on extended contracts, whether they are on ES3 or the previous Extended Careers/2nd Open Engagement (2OE)?

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds the information that you have requested and taking your points in order:

Firstly, the number of Royal Marine Other Ranks (RMOR), by rank, age and specialisation who are currently serving on an Extended Service 3 (ES3) of 5, 10 and 15 years can be found detailed in the Annex attached to this letter.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that it is not possible to split the data out by the length of their extended contracts so the total has been provided for all personnel on any extended contract. The specialisations used here reflect those used in the 'Royal Navy and Royal Marines monthly personnel statistics' publications.

Secondly, with regard to your request for details of current forecasts for offers of ES3 (5, 10 and 15 years) to RMORs for the next seven years by rank and specialisation, whilst the Department undertakes detailed manpower planning for the Armed Forces it does not publish interim projections. The link below explains the reasons in more detail.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-18/71188/>

The most recent version of the RN and RM Monthly Situation Report can be accessed via the link above.

The Ministry of Defence is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As the information you requested is already available to the public we have assessed your request falls under the absolute exemption at section 21 – Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means – of the Act. Consequently, we are not obliged to provide you with the information.

The most recent version of the RN and RM Monthly Situation Report can be accessed via the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/639709/20170821_-_FINAL_-_RN_RM_Monthly_Situation_Report_rounded_.pdf

Finally, in response to your request for details of which specialisations are considered Operational Pinch Points (OPPs). After careful consideration, the decision has been taken to withhold this information as it is considered to fall within the scope of exemption s26 (Defence). The reasons why this decision has been made are set out below.

Under s26(1)(a) and (b): Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice (a) the defence of the British Islands or of any colony or (b) the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces.

As this is a qualified exemption it has been necessary to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweigh the public interest in disclosure. We recognise that there is a widespread interest in our Armed Forces present and future capabilities. We therefore acknowledge that there would be a measure of public interest in releasing this information that you have requested. However, we believe the wider impact of releasing this information into the public domain could be used by Hostile Powers against the UK Armed Forces, which would negatively impact upon Defence. We have therefore concluded that the public interest factors against the release of this information outweigh those in favour.

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, Ground Floor, Zone D, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

Table 1: Royal Marine Other Ranks on extended contracts as at 1st July 2017, by specialisation and rank.

Rank	RM Band Service	RM General Service	Total
Total	50	280	330
OR2	~	~	~
OR4	~	10	20
OR6	10	10	20
OR7	20	80	110
OR8	~	100	110
OR9	~	80	80

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. Only Trained Regulars have been included.
2. Rank is determined using Paid Rank.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20. Numbers that would be rounded to 0 are represented by '~'.

Table 2: Royal Marine Other Ranks on extended contracts as at 1st July 2017, by specialisation and age.

Age	RM Band Service	RM General Service	Total
Total	50	280	330
35 - 39	-	~	~
40 - 44	20	60	80
45 - 49	20	130	150
50 - 54	10	80	100
55 - 59	-	10	10

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. Only Trained Regulars have been included.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20. Numbers that would be rounded to 0 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.

