



Ministry of Defence

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15 August 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 June in which you requested the following information:

"For each of the following ranks: Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier, Major General, Lieutenant General, General, could you please disclose...

- a. How many of each rank have taken two Personal Fitness Assessments in the last 12 months? and*
- b. What proportion of the total number of officers at each of the above ranks have taken two PFAs in the last 12 months? and*
- c. How many of those at each rank who took two PFAs failed at least one of the tests?"*

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

The Personal Fitness Assessment (PFA) is based around the promotion of general fitness and good health. All personnel are provided with the necessary support and training in order to meet the Army's physical standards and are managed in accordance with current Army policy. Additional help is provided for those personnel who fail to meet these standards.

The table below shows the PFA completion data requested for Regular Army Officers as at 1 April 2014 and also includes the number of personnel who have taken at least one PFA. The information shows the number of these personnel who took a test during the PFA period one (1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013) and/or PFA period two (1 October 2013 to 31 March 2014):

Rank	Number in each rank	Number who have taken two PFAs	% who have taken two PFAs	Number who have taken at least one PFAs	% who have taken at least one PFAs	Number who have not met the standard on at least one assessment
General	5	0	0	0	0	0
Lieutenant General	10	0	0	0	18%	0
Major General	40	6	15%	14	36%	0
Brigadier	160	34	22%	64	41%	0
Colonel	520	104	20%	206	40%	0
Lieutenant Colonel	1670	382	23%	778	47%	11

Please note, in line with Defence Statistics Rounding Policy, and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers less than five have been suppressed; figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, except where specified. Where rounding has been used, 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.

There are a number of valid reasons why officers may not be able to undertake PFAs. The main reasons include those officers that:

- a. have deployed on operations, including Afghanistan, Libya, Kosovo and Djibouti. These personnel will have met exacting medical and physical fitness criteria 3 months prior to their deployment. Once deployed (for up to 12 months), they maintain their levels of fitness within the constraints of the operational environment. On return, they have a three month period of active rest, during which they are not required to take a PFA;
- b. are unable to complete the PFA for medical reasons. The Army employs a number of officers that have medical conditions, which prevent them from completing the PFA. These officers are retained by the Army as they still offer value to Defence by virtue of their acquired knowledge, skills and experience;
- c. have been assigned to international appointments, such as a Defence Attache, where the infrastructure is inadequate to conduct the annual PFA and there are no qualified personnel to conduct the assessment. For example, such locations include: Botswana, Kathmandu, Abuja, Bogota and Beijing. These officers undertake their own fitness programmes within the bounds of cultural sensitivities, personal security and access to appropriate facilities.

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat