



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 31 March 2015 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in which you asked the following:

- 1. What is the minimum colour vision standard for entry at any rank/post for the above mentioned services?*
- 2. What medical/statistical research forms the basis of the current colour vision standards for recruits and who was the author?*
- 3. What is the name/reference number/circular number of the document mentioned in 2 and is it available to the public?*
- 4. What is the name of the document that contains the current colour vision standard for all the armed forces and the reference number it carries.*
- 5. Is the document mentioned in 4 available to the general public?*

This has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The MOD can confirm that it holds some information within the scope of your request and it will answer your questions in turn.

1. What is the minimum colour vision standard for entry at any rank/post for the above mentioned services?

This information is provided in the following documents:

- Joint Service Publication 950 6-7-3 Annex G contains the tri-Service guidance on how to assess Colour Perception (CP).
- Handbook of Navy Medical Standards (BR1750A) Leaflet 6-03 and Leaflet 6-05. Guidance specific to the Royal Navy on the application of CP standards and guidance on assessing CP.
- PULHEEMS Administrative Pamphlet 10 Tables 1, 2 and 4 provides guidance on the application of CP standards in the Army.

- Royal Air Force Manual of Medical Fitness (AP1269A) contains guidance on the assessment and application of CP in the RAF.

2. What medical/statistical research forms the basis of the current colour vision standards for recruits and who was the author? and

3. What is the name/reference number/circular number of the document mentioned in 2 and is it available to the public?

The MOD follows the lead of the Civil Aviation Authority, Maritime Coastguard Agency and others in setting its standards. The MOD also takes account of the body of research in this area and you may wish to look at the following research, which can be obtained from publically available sources.

- Cole BL/Vingrys AJ (1982)
A survey and evaluation of lantern tests of color vision.
American Journal of Optometry and Physiological Optics 59(4):346-374
- Cole BL/Vingrys AJ (1983)
Validation of the Holmes-Wright lanterns for testing colour vision.
Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics 3:137-152
- Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage (2001) International Recommendations for Colour Vision Requirements for Transport. CIE 143-2001

4. What is the name of the document that contains the current colour vision standard for all the armed forces and the reference number it carries, and

5. Is the document mentioned in 4 available to the general public?

Please see the answer to question 1 and the enclosed documents.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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 FOIA. 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,

Head Quarters Surgeon General