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17 September 2014

Email:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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Thank you for your email of 19 August 2014 where you requested information about soldiers under the age of 18 years.

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 information in scope of your request is held. Your questions are below, together with the relevant answers, which relate to the training year 2013/14.

For the most recent years in which figures are available, how many of the Junior Entry soldiers who completed Phase 1 training at AFC Harrogate or ATC Winchester had reached the age of 18 by the time they began Phase 2 training at their next training establishment?

201 of 1109 in total.

For the most recent years in which figures are available, how many soldiers who enlisted under the age of 18 had reached the age of 18 by the time they completed their Phase 2 training?

Of the 1753 soldiers who were under 18 when they enlisted during 2013/14, 164 of them had reached the age of 18 by the time they had completed training.

Further to your second question, in accordance with Section 16 of FOIA, it may be helpful if I explain that of the remaining 1589 trainees, 23 completed training while under 18, 28 dropped out, and 1538 were still in training as of 10 September 2014.

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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.

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Yours sincerely,

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