



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
Navy Command Headquarters
MP 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
PORTSMOUTH
PO2 8BY

2016-07382

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]

Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4 August 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 July 2016 addressed to RFA Recruiting which has been passed to this office for an FOI-compliant reply to be made. You have requested the following information:

- '1. Please can you tell me if the Royal Navy Entry Test pass rate for Seaman Apprentice (Deck) for the RFA has changed between June 2015 to July 2016 showing proof of the change.*
- 2. Please can you tell where it says on the Royal Navy website or brochures that I can only take the test twice and why is that.'*

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 Department holds the information you have requested and in response to your first question the Royal Navy Entry Recruitment Test (RT) for Seaman Apprentice has not changed from the period June 2015 to July 2016. However, the Seaman branch is the most popular with applicants thus generating higher competition for interview selection. Consequently the sift¹ process is extensive but despite this criteria, it has not been sufficient to reduce the number of applicants being invited to interview during the last 12 months. In order to address this excess the remaining applications undergo a second sift whereby the applications are placed in order by their overall RT score together with a higher mark specified in parts 2 and 3 of the test; the top scorers are subsequently invited for interview.

¹ The process where those who have successfully passed the RT are assessed to see who will be selected for an interview.

For your second question I can confirm that the information you have requested is contained in BRd 3 Naval Personnel Management, V1, part 4, para's 0812 and 0813 which is available on the Royal Navy website via the following link:

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/~media/royal%20navy%20responsive/documents/reference%20library/br%203/br3book/ch08.pdf>

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 a copy of the information.

However, as we have been suffering intermittent issues with the hyperlink to this document, and under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act I can provide you with this extract of the specific paragraphs you require:

0812. RT - Failed Candidates

- a. **ACTION: CAREERS STAFF.** Candidates who do not reach the minimum score for entry into any BOP and those who fail to reach the minimum mandatory Part 2 or Part 3 scores are to be rejected.
- b. Candidates who achieve a RT score above the minimum required for entry into any Branch but do not reach the minimum RT requirement for their stated BOP are to be advised on other branches available to them which require a lesser score. Candidates who do not wish to consider an alternative BOP are to be rejected.
- c. Candidates who are rejected for either of the reasons above are to be advised that they may, if applicable, make a further attempt. They can also be advised how to prepare themselves for a future attempt.
- d. The RT results are to be recorded on the MIS.

0813. RT – Retaking

- a. RT scores will remain valid for a period of 3 years from the last attempt. However, candidates must meet the current BOP RT requirement at the time of re-application. The Candidate must therefore enter service within a 3-year period from passing RT for their Branch. In a small minority of cases this will require re-taking of RT after an entry date has been allocated. Where relevant, applicants should be made aware of this requirement as soon as this possibility is recognised.
- b. A second attempt of the RT may be authorised by the CA/ACLO after a minimum 4 month period.
- c. A third attempt can only be made in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the ARO. A minimum of at least 12 months must have elapsed between the first and third attempts.
- d. All re-tests must be conducted using a different version of the RT Test from that previously used.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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

