



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 09 April 2015 requesting the following information:

First, the median and average length of total service of RN helicopter pilots from the date of their commission to their leaving the service.

Second, the median and/or average duration of service between the promotions they might anticipate, first to Lieutenant, then to Lt Commander, Commander and thereafter to the rank of Captain?

Are you able to provide statistics that show the likelihood of an officer being promoted from one rank to the one above, and from Sub Lieutenant to Captain ?

Finally, are you able to provide statistics that record the number of RN helicopter pilots who are eligible for each year of the past five years for which you hold the data to apply for and transfer from an Initial Commission to a Career Commission, and in turn from a Career Commission to a Full Service Commission, that is to serve to 55 years old ?

We have treated your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

After further correspondence we will include *Royal Navy Pilots under training* because a service person is not defined as a helicopter pilot until up to 5 years after joining the service. I also advised [REDACTED], I am unable to provide your request 'the number of RN helicopter pilots who are eligible for each year of the past five years to apply for and transfer from an Initial Commission to a Career Commission, and in turn from a Career Commission to a Full Service Commission'. I can, however, provide you with the statistics to meet this request for RN FAA Officers rather than just RN helicopter pilots. This will include all pilots, observers and air traffic controllers and has been included in table 4.

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested and the answer to your request is in the tables below.

Table 1. The average length of service for a new entrant Royal Navy (RN) Fleet Air Arm (FAA) Helicopter Pilot*

	RN Helicopter Pilot*
Average length of service	15.2

Table 2. Expected length of service (LOS) in and on promotion to the rank for RN FAA Helicopter Pilot*

Rank	Expected LOS in rank	Expected LOS on promotion to the rank
OF-1	2.4	
OF-2	10.4	2.8
OF-3	9.9	13.7
OF-4	6.9	22.0
OF-5	4.9	27.5
OF-6	2.7	31.6
OF-7 & ABOVE	6.4	29.7

Table 3. The percentage chance of a paid rank promotion for RN Helicopter Pilot*

		Start Rank				
		OF-1	OF-2	OF-3	OF-4	OF-5
Chance of promotion to before leaving the Armed Forces	OF-2	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	OF-3	44%	60%	100%	100%	100%
	OF-4	13%	18%	34%	100%	100%
	OF-5	4%	6%	12%	32%	100%

Table 4. The number of RN FAA Officers who are eligible and who transferred from an initial commission to a career commission and a career commission to a full service commission

		Eligible	Target**	Taken
2010	Initial Commission to Career Commission	100	45	40
	Career Commission to Full Service Commission	105	40	35
2011	Initial Commission to Career Commission	110	20	10
	Career Commission to Full Service Commission	110	15	15
2012	Initial Commission to Career Commission	130	20	20
	Career Commission to Full Service Commission	130	15	15
2013	Initial Commission to Career Commission	150	40	40
	Career Commission to Full Service Commission	125	30	30
2014	Initial Commission to Career Commission	135	65	45
	Career Commission to Full Service Commission	135	100	55
2015	Initial Commission to Career Commission	110	75	70
	Career Commission to Full Service Commission	120	70	35

I hope you find this information helpful. It should be noted that in table 1 the chance of achieving a particular length of service refers to completing the year. For example, in this table, 9% of pilots did not complete a full year, therefore exited in year '0'.

*Includes all *Pilots Under Training* as a service person is not defined as a helicopter pilot until up to 5 years after joining the service

**The target in table 4 is also the Maximum Authorise Number (MAuN) permitted by Commodore Naval Personnel Strategy.

All pilots serving on an Initial Commission are awarded an Auto transfer to a Career Commission on successful completion of Operational Flying Training

Figures in table 4 have been rounded in accordance with Defence Statistics Rounding Policy. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Navy)