



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)
Ministry Of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7807 8896

Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7218 0969

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Reference: FOI 2015 03798

Date: 13 May 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence requesting the following information:

“For the last 5 years the number of women vs men that have been promoted in each rank for NON teeth arm units i.e. the infantry, RAC, etc. To show fairness and imparity, could I also ask for the same statistical data for the RAF and Navy.”

Following further communications on 14 April 2015 the request was clarified to be:

“For all jobs that women are able to be employed in alongside men, the number of men and women in each rank that are promoted in those jobs - if it is possible, the numbers of men and women going forward on the promotion board”

We are 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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested *“For all jobs that women are able to be employed in alongside men, the number of men and women in each rank that are promoted in those jobs”* can be found attached Excel file “FOI 2015 03798 attachment” in the table format you requested.

Regarding the portion of your request *“if it is possible, the numbers of men and women going forward on the promotion board”*, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to extract the information in scope of your request would involve searching for the record of each individual on the board to determine their gender. For the RAF alone, there are approximately 127 promotion selection boards each year and the number of individuals presented to each board ranges from 1-350. For this level of data for the largest board of 350 in the last year alone would take at least some 3.5 working days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 16 of the Act which requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance, I have considered providing an indication of what, if any, information could be provided within the cost limit. I have to advise that even if you were to refine your request and submit multiple and separate requests in relation to each individual promotion board, these requests would be liable to be aggregated, thus, again exceeding the cost limit.

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/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)