



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

20 June 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2016 requesting the following information:

I would be grateful if you would provide the following information regarding the potential career of Nursing Officers in the Royal Air Force.

- 1) the number of Nursing Officer applications received in each of the last three years (broken down by gender if possible)*
- 2) the number of applicants recruited in the last three years (broken down by gender if possible)*
- 3) the number of Nursing Officer recruits successfully graduating from the University of Birmingham nursing degree programme in the last three years*
- 4) the percentage of successful graduates from the University of Birmingham nursing degree programme*
- 5) the average length of service for a Nursing Officer*
- 6) average career progression by length of time in each rank*
- 7) current pay scale for Nursing Officers.*

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 some information in scope of your request is held. I will answer each of your questions in turn.

The number of Nursing Officer applications received and the number recruited in each of the last three years, broken down by gender, can be found in the tables below. Applications

have only been counted once per reporting year. The number of applications for each reporting year is not linked in any way to the number of intakes for the same year.

Officer Applications	2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	Princess Marys RAF Nursing Service	60	20	60	20	60
Sum:	60	20	60	20	60	20

Officer Intakes	2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	Princess Marys RAF Nursing Service	10	~	~	~	10
Sum:	10	~	~	~	10	~

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data has been rounded to the nearest 10, where “~” denotes a number less than or equal to 5. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Information on the number of Nursing Officer recruits successfully graduating from the University of Birmingham nursing degree programme in the last three years and the percentage of successful graduates from the University of Birmingham nursing degree programme is not held. You may find it useful to know that the pre-registration nursing course for military students is run at Birmingham City University. Additionally, military students on the pre-registration nursing course are not considered Nursing Officers.

The average Return of Service for the nursing branch as a whole is 14 years 1 month; this data refers to the average total length of Service on exit. The information contained in the table below relating to average length of Service on promotion has been calculated during the period 2009/10 – 2015/16 and is a guideline only.

Rank	Average total length of Service on promotion
Flight Lieutenant (OF2)	7 months
Squadron Leader (OF3)	9 years 7 months
Wing Commander (OF4)	16 years 10 months
Group Captain (OF5)	20 years 11 months
Air Commodore (OF6) and above	Not applicable

The current pay scales for all Armed Forces personnel, including Nursing Officers, are published and readily available in the public domain. Therefore, this information is exempt under Section 21 - information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. This can be found at the following link

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514120/2016_0330_NEM-Pay16_Booklet_Rev_300316.pdf

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, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat
Air Command