



Ministry of Defence

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20150302-FOI 01317 [REDACTED]

3 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 February, which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000; I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

In your email you requested the following information:

- “1. The average length of time between application and entry to training for the trade of fire fighter or for RAF trades generally.
2. The number of redundancies which have been made in this trade since 2012.
3. The availability of vacancies in this trade since 2012.
4. The pay ranges applicable to the various ranks in the trade of fire fighter.
5. Any additional allowances personnel in this trade may be entitled to – for example, allowances associated with postings abroad if applicable.
6. Statistics to show the percentage chance of a fire fighter new entrant reaching key ‘milestones’ eg, completing training, initial service commitment of 9 years, up to 22 years.
7. Statistics to show the percentage chance of being promoted to successive ranks in the fire fighter trade (that is, percentage chance of being promoted to subsequent ranks, and percentage chance of promotion having already achieved the preceding rank).
8. Statistics to show the average total length of service on promotion through the various ranks in the fire fighter trade up to the rank of Warrant Officer.”

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

With regard to query 1, the MOD does not hold recorded information about the average length of time between application and entry to training for the trade of Fire Fighter. However, under our duty to provide advice and assistance (Section 16 of the FOI Act), you may wish to be aware that the P3 (Airmen) recruiting timeline for trades in general is expected to take three months, where there are no complications (such as medical or fitness re-tests) and no Specialist Interview required. The RAF Fire Fighter trade requires a Specialist Interview.

For query 2, no Fire Fighters exited the RAF on the grounds of redundancy during the period 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014.

For query 3, details of the RAF Fire Fighter 'into training' targets (ITT) since 2012 are as follows:

RAF Fire Fighter ITT figures by Financial Year

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
RAF Fire Fighter	28	65	100	82

Under Section 21 of the FOI Act, information relating to queries 4 and 5 is readily available to you, as it is already in the public domain. To be helpful, details of the pay ranges applicable to RAF Fire Fighters at each rank and allowances they may be entitled to can be found at the RAF Families Federation website at the following web address: <http://www.raf-ff.org.uk/financial-news.asp?info=Your+new+PAY+RATES+as+of++1+APR+14>.

RAF Fire Fighters are on the Lower level pay ranges and do not receive any specialist pay. RAF Fire Fighters are entitled to the full range of allowances that all Service personnel are entitled to, providing they meet the criteria. There are no specialist allowances for RAF Fire Fighters.

The information you have requested for Queries 6, 7 and 8 can be found attached at Annex A.

Section 1 of the FOI Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made. It does not require public authorities to provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held.

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 this office 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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Air Command Secretariat

Career Projection for a New Entrant in the Firefighter trade.

LoS ¹	% chance of reaching LoS
0	94%
1	92%
2	91%
3	84%
4	70%
5	55%
6	49%
7	44%
8	41%
9	36%
10	34%
11	33%
12	29%
13	27%
14	26%
15	25%
16	23%
17	21%
18	21%
19	21%
20	20%
21	18%
22	11%
23	8%
24	6%
25	4%
26	4%
27	3%
28	3%
29	3%
30	3%
31	2%
32	2%
33	2%
34	2%
35	2%
36	1%
37	1%
38	0%
39	0%
40	0%

	% chance of a New Entrant being promoted to subsequent ranks	% chance of promotion having already achieved the preceeding rank	Average <i>total</i> length of service from entry and on promotion to the stated rank
AC/LAC	100%		
SAC	92%	92%	1 year & 2 months
CPL	39%	47%	7 years & 1 month
SGT	24%	71%	14 years & 3 months
FS	9%	26%	20 years & 7 months
WO	4%	74%	26 years & 4 months

¹ 'LOS x' means 'LOS greater than or equal to x but less than x+1'. So 'LOS9', for example, is the chance of personnel serving more than or equal to 9 years but less than 10 years.

² Average Return of Service is the average length of service on exit. It considers the trade as a whole and is not specific to rank or LoS.

Notes:

a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data 2007/08 – 2013/14. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **New Entrants** into the **Fftr** trade - average career projections have been calculated.

b. Defence Statistics' career forecasts are not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather are based on the historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics.