



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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Ref. 2016/06114

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Via Email: [REDACTED]

4 July 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

### Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 June 2016, which asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

*I would just like to check a few facts about women and the RM.*

*1. It appears to now be a general practice, especially in RN charities, to use the term RNRM, when previously people would have used the term RN (and expected readers to assume RM were included). Please could you give me a sentence I could use explaining why this is?*

*2. Are there yet any women leaders of the 6 RM bands? Or is there any data that shows male and female relative numbers at different ranks or doing different jobs? I asked for this under the FOI Act.*

*3. What particular sorts of instruments do women tend to play in RM bands, or is there no gendered pattern?*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held by the department. I shall address each of your queries in turn:

*1. It appears to now be a general practice, especially in RN charities, to use the term RNRM, when previously people would have used the term RN (and expected readers to assume RM were included). Please could you give me a sentence I could use explaining why this is?*

The term Royal Navy covers both the RN and RM personnel, however we are aware that the general public often do not identify the Royal Marines as part of the Navy and many indeed think that they are soldiers ie part of the Army. As a result the RN charities, when

seeking donations from the public, wish to make clear that they are supporting, and collecting on behalf of, both Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel.

*2. Are there yet any women leaders of the 6 RM bands? Or is there any data that shows male and female relative numbers at different ranks or doing different jobs? I asked for this under the FOI Act.*

There are in fact 5 RM Bands but as yet we have no female Director of Music (officers). We have one female Warrant Officer Bandmaster who is assigned to the Band Service Headquarters and a number of female ranks qualified for the rank of WO Bandmaster awaiting promotion. Female ranks within the RM Band Service do exactly the same job as their male counterparts. The female service personnel currently serving with th RM Band constitute 34% of the total.

*3. What particular sorts of instruments do women tend to play in RM bands, or is there no gendered pattern?*

There is no gender pattern. Women are employed in all roles and on all instruments.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your andling 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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://.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section