



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
Navy Command Headquarters  
MP 1-4, Leach Building  
Whale Island  
PORTSMOUTH  
PO2 8BY

2015-01512

Telephone [MOD]: [REDACTED]  
Facsimile [MOD]: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [navysef-foimailbox@mod.uk](mailto:navysef-foimailbox@mod.uk)

[REDACTED]

3 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 February 2015 requesting the following information:

1. Number of recruits entering basic training in 2014 and in the previous five years
2. Numbers completing basic training in these years
3. Numbers leaving basic training due to injuries gained while training
4. Numbers leaving basic training for personal issues
5. Numbers leaving basic training for other reasons
6. Numbers going into rehabilitation (Hunter Troop)
7. Numbers returning to training after rehabilitation
8. The main causes of recruits dropping out
9. What the Royal Marines do to reduce dropout rates

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking and the information you requested is attached at Annex A to this letter.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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

[REDACTED]

Training Year 1 Apr - 31 Mar		09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
1	Recruits entering basic training Includes re-entrants	1228	1120	686	1062	939
2	Completed basic training Pass Outs	685	703	514	518	628
3	Discharged due to injuries gained while training Naval Service Medical Board of Service (NMBOS)	37	<10*	14	29	22
4	Discharged at own request/personal issues Premature Voluntary Release (PVR)	424	287	126	212	210
5	Discharged for other reasons					
	Discharged Unsuitable During Training (DUDT)	91	120	126	66	96
	Not Finally Approved Medical (NFA Med)	101	98	53	64	56
	Transfers to Navy	<5*	<5*	<5*	0	0
	Total Discharged	660*	520*	320*	371	384
6	Joining Hunter Troop	532	569	539	452	645
7	Returning to training from Hunter Troop	388	442	380	342	495

8 The main causes of recruits dropping out

The main reason why recruits withdraw from training is that they feel that they are not suited to military life, in particular the demands of Royal Marine training. Although this is difficult to quantify, it can be broadly sub-divided into homesickness (major reason) and employment opportunities elsewhere (minor reason).

9 What the Royal Marines do to reduce dropout rates

The recruit syllabus is carefully crafted to mitigate this including families day, weekend leave in Phase 2 training, a battlefield tour to Normandy and adventurous training all contribute to the variety of training, offsetting the intense physical and mental demands and being carefully placed to give psychological breaks.

Part of the recruit syllabus looks at the feeling of separation (they are part of military life beyond training), that it is normal and how to cope with it. This is part of a formal process of moral development of the recruit. The course also looks at life beyond training, to give them an aiming mark beyond the Green Beret.

The command chain is key. Those recruits expressing a desire to leave are interviewed by the command chain; all recruits will 'wobble' during training, some more than others. The Company Commanders personally interview recruits to ascertain reasons. Often recruits are asked to give it a little longer before they formally leave. In other cases, it may be a personal issue which merely requires some time at home; this we provide, supporting the recruit throughout, allowing him back into training. It is only after all options have been fully exhausted, do we allow the recruit to leave. We see a full spectrum of reasons, from a recruit belonging to the travelling community for whom the tribal ties are too strong to break, to recruits who were a professional motocross cyclist and a pro surfer who wished to return to those lifestyles.

\* Where figures are below 10, they have been rounded (<10 for figures between 5 and 9 and <5 for figures between 1 and 4) in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy. Some total discharge

figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to avoid inadvertently disclosing the actual values of some of the rounded figures.