



Ministry of Defence

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22 May 2017

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 3 May in which you requested the following information:

"I would be grateful if you would please provide the following information:

- What percentage of men who complete the assessment for the Parachute Regiment go on to successfully complete the 28 week Parachute Regiment Course ('P' Company)?
• What percentage of those recruited into the Parachute Regiment go on to serve in Special Air Service (SAS)?
• What percentage of those who apply to join the Special Air Service (SAS) go on to serve within the SAS?
• What is the average length of service a soldier has undertaken prior to being successfully recruited into the Special Air Service (SAS)?
• What is the average length of service of a man recruited into the Special Air Service (SAS) via the Parachute Regiment?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that the MOD does hold information in scope of these requests. However, the information relating to the final four questions you asked is exempt from release under Section 23(1) - information relating to Special Forces. Section 23 is an absolute exemption, in accordance with section 2(3)(b) of the FOIA, and so the public interest balance test set out in section 2(2)(b) does not apply.

The information for your first question relating to the percentage of men who complete the assessment for the Parachute Regiment go on to successfully complete the 28 week Parachute Regiment Course (P Company) is as follows:

Table with 7 columns: Training year, 11/12, 12/13, 13/14, 14/15, 15/16, 16/17. Row 1: % pass CIC(PARA), 30%, 39%, 73%, 48%, 65%, 33%

A few points to note:-

1. CIC(PARA) is the Combat Infantryman Course tailored specifically to the Parachute Regiment and is 28 weeks long.
2. P Company is a series of tests conducted over one week to assess suitability to serve with the Parachute Regiment and Airborne forces. For Parachute Regiment soldiers, this is part of CIC(PARA).
2. Nobody begins CIC(PARA) unless they have been assessed as suitable to start.
4. Individuals who commence training in one financial year but who pass in the following year will only be shown as a pass in the year they completed the course.
5. Individuals may pass on a subsequent course, having been removed from an earlier course for medical or other reasons.

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, Ground 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



Disclosure and Litigation Leader