



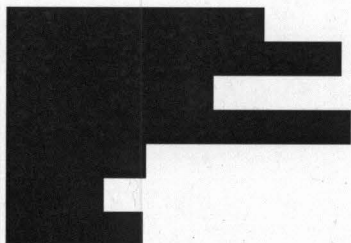
# Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/10212/13/04/79593

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10 November 2017

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in which you requested the following information:

- 1) *What is the average duration of service prior to promotion by capbadge for Officers?*
- 2) *What is the average length of service on exit for Officers by capbadge?*
- 3) *What is the required rank by capbadge for conversion to a VEng (Full) for Officers?*

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

The information you have requested at part one of your request, falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (information accessible to the applicant by other means) of the FOIA. The latest information held on length of service for Officers by capbadge prior to promotion has been released in FOI2015/04443 and is available via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-29-june-2015>

The information you have requested at part two of your request can be found below. No information is held in relation to part three of your request.

Average length of service on exit for Direct Entry Officers by capbadge based on data from the last three full financial years (2014/15-2016/17):

| Arm/Corps  | Average Length of Service in years and months |
|--|---|
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>16 Y 3 M</b>                               |
| Staff  | 31 Y 3 M                                      |
| Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps             | 11 Y 2 M                                      |
| Royal Regiment of Artillery                        | 14 Y 3 M                                      |
| Corps of Royal Engineers                           | 14 Y 0 M                                      |
| Royal Corps of Signals                             | 15 Y 10 M                                     |
| Infantry   | 12 Y 10 M                                     |
| Army Air Corps                                     | 15 Y 7 M                                      |
| Royal Army Chaplains' Department                   | 16 Y 11 M                                     |
| Royal Logistic Corps                               | 16 Y 6 M                                      |
| Royal Army Medical Corps                           | 13 Y 8 M                                      |
| Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 16 Y 3 M                                      |
| Adjutant Generals Corps                            | 13 Y 8 M                                      |
| Royal Army Veterinary Corps                        | 7 Y 2 M                                       |
| Royal Army Dental Corps                            | 13 Y 4 M                                      |
| Intelligence Corps                                 | 12 Y 0 M                                      |
| Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps         | 15 Y 6 M                                      |

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

- The figures are for trained Regular Army Officers only and therefore exclude Gurkhas and all Reserves, but include personnel who have transferred from the Brigade of Gurkhas to the Regular Army.
- The figures are for Direct Entry personnel only. Arms/Services that do not have Direct Entry Officers have been excluded (Royal Army Physical Training Corps, Small Arms School Corps and Corps of Army Music).
- All Officers with a Paid Rank of Colonel or above are included in the Staff strength.
- Length of service has been calculated using entry date. There are known problems with the entry date information, which is supposed to reflect current entry date. However if personnel have transferred to the Army from another Service, served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events. Therefore the Length of Service on record may reflect current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since first joining the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note in relation to part 1 of your request, that British Army Officers receive a commission and do not serve on Versatile Engagement (VEng). Information on commission types is here:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/29103.aspx>

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Army Secretariat.

Army Secretariat