



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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FOI 2017/02595

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[REDACTED]  
Via email:

24 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2017 providing clarification of your earlier Freedom Information Request, and which now reads as follows:

1. *'How many currently serving RFA Personnel (by Rank and Branch, Officers and Ratings) are not in possession of an **unrestricted ENG1 Seafaring Medical** Certificate?'*
2. *'Exactly what; if any, administrative action has been taken by the RFA Personnel Operations Department against the personnel without ENG1 Seafaring Medical Certificates? This information is to be presented by Rank and Branch for Officers and Ratings.'*

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 Ministry of Defence holds information in scope of your request which can be found in the Annex attached to this letter. However, please be advised that it has not been possible to present the information broken down beyond Officers and Ratings and branch as detailing the very small numbers of each rank without a certificate would risk identifying individuals and be in breach of S40(2) of the FOI Act (Data Protection).

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met, and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes.

Branch totals by officer and rating are given in the table but again, in accordance with the Act, where these totals are very small they have been amalgamated in the "Other" category. Branches included in the "Other" category are listed in the notes.

With regard to question 2 of your request, in accordance with Data Protection Principles and with S40(2) – Personal Data of the FOI Act, I am only able to advise you that on-going administrative action is being considered for fitness to proceed applicable to the 1-5 RFA personnel who are not in possession of an ENG 1 Seafaring medical certificate. The vast majority of those personnel listed as being without a Medical Certificate are either booked to renew, on special unpaid leave (career break) or have no vacant appointment to go to.

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, Zone D, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

**Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Personnel, without a ENG1 Seafaring Medical Certificate**

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Officers</b>
Executive	9
Electrical systems	7
Engineering	11
Other	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

	<b>Ratings</b>
Logistics	0
Electrical systems	0
Engineering	8
Communications	11
Seaman	7
Steward	8
Other	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

Notes:

- For Officers, Logistics and Communications personnel have been grouped together as "Other".
- For Ratings, personnel in the Executive, Helicopter Controller, Chef, Laundry and Medical Technician branches have been grouped together as "Other".