



Ministry
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10 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 July 2017 requesting the following information:

'The amount and percentage of Royal Marines reserves that have been asked to go on an operational tour/operation (excluding training exercises) by year from 2004-2009.

- The amount and percentage of Royal Marines reserves that have been forced to go on an operational tour/operation (excluding training exercises) by year from 2004-2009.

- The amount and percentage of Royal Marines reserves that have used some form of extenuating circumstances to not go on an operational tour/operation when called (excluding training exercises) by year from 2004-2009.

- A list of generic and non identifying specific extenuating circumstances used by Royal Marines reserves to prevent calling to an operational tour/operation (excluding training exercises) used between 2004-2009.'

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 the information you have requested which 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, Ground Floor, Zone D, 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://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

Q1. The amount and percentage of Royal Marines reserves that have been asked to go on an operational tour/operation (excluding training exercises) by year from 2004-2009?

A1. The Royal Marines Reserves use a process of Intelligent Mobilisation in which an operational deployment is advertised to all ranks and then suitable candidates are selected from those that volunteer. Therefore, in principle, 100% of a given cohort is asked if they wish to volunteer, although it is accepted that not everyone may get the offer communicated to them. In the period of time requested the following table is the number of ranks that have been mobilised for operations and what percentage this is against the Trained Strength for each given year:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
RMR Ranks Mobilised	2	15	8	31	27	0
Percentage (%) against Trained Strength	0.4	3	1.6	6.2	5.4	0

Q2. The amount and percentage of Royal Marines reserves that have been forced to go on an operational tour/operation (excluding training exercises) by year from 2004-2009?

A2. Due to the Intelligent Mobilisation process no Royal Marines Reserves have been forced to go on operations.

Q3. The amount and percentage of Royal Marines reserves that have used some form of extenuating circumstances to not go on an operational tour/operation when called (excluding training exercises) by year from 2004-2009?

A3. At the point of mobilisation the only reason a rank would not go on an operational tour is if they fail the joining medical or there is a personal family crisis. There is no available record of Royal Marines Reserves in this category.

Q4. A list of generic and non-identifying specific extenuating circumstances used by Royal Marines reserves to prevent calling to an operational tour/operation (excluding training exercises) used between 2004-2009?

A4. As all ranks for operations are volunteers there are no non-specific lists of individual extenuating circumstances.

