



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/07927

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6 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 August 2017 in which you clarified that you required the following information:

'Under FOIA 2000, please could you provide the following information in regard to the chances of promotion for Royal Marine officers from the rank of Captain to Brigadier over the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2017:

- the percentage chance of promotion from the previous rank.*
- expected LoS in rank.*
- expected LoS in rank on promotion*
- percentage chance of promotion from Lt Col to Col for officers who have not held a Command appointment as an SO1 and their expected LoS in rank on promotion to Col.*

I requested the promotion statistics from Captain to Brigadier. Although if it is easier for the Staff Officer, I am happy to take the data from New Entrant to Brigadier and extrapolate myself.'

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 some information in scope of your request, however please be advised that the information you have requested in relation to a Royal Marine Officer's promotion from Lt Col to Col that have not held a Command appointment is not held in the requested format. The information we are able to provide you is detailed in the attached Annex to this letter.

Under section 16 – Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance – of the Act, you may find it useful to know that data held by Defence Statistics cannot separately identify personnel in Command appointments. You may also find it helpful to note that analysis provided uses the average length of service for a Royal Marine Captain; as a length of service has not been specified in the request. The average length of service for a Royal Marine Captain (OF2) is 7 years. This analysis includes both Royal Marine General Service and Royal Marine Band Service.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

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). 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

Table 1: Percentage chance of promotion for a Royal Marine Captain with a Length of Service of 7 years.

Rank		Chance of Promotion to rank
OF-3	Major	59%
OF-4	Lt-Colonel	32%
OF-5	Colonel	12%
OF-6	Brigadier	6%
OF-7 +	Major-General	2%

Source: Defence Statistics Navy

Table 2: Expected Length of Service in rank and expected Length of Service on promotion to rank, in years, for a Royal Marine Captain with a Length of Service of 7 years.

Rank		Expected LOS in Rank	Expected LOS on promotion to the rank
OF-2	Captain	3.7	N/A
OF-3	Major	7.3	10.2
OF-4	Lt-Colonel	6.3	17.3
OF-5	Colonel	5.2	23.3
OF-6	Brigadier	3.7	28.2
OF-7 +	Major-General	4.2	30.8

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

Notes

N/A is present in table 2 because this career forecast has been run for someone already at OF-2. Expected LOS in is calculated by using the averages of historic data and represents full years of completed service.

Averages are produced using the time period 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2017.

Exiting denotes anything that results in an ending of Regular service e.g. time expiry, voluntary outflow, death etc.

In Table 2 'Expected LOS in rank' includes all exits from that rank, for example promotion to the next rank or exiting the service.

Note that for the current rank the 'Expected LOS in Rank' is expected LOS in that rank from 1 April of the year from which the forecast is being run. You will need to add on LOS up to 1 April of that year to get total expected LOS in the current rank.

