



Ministry  
of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom

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E-mail: [ArmySec-Group@mod.uk](mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.uk)

Website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

24 April 2017

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 March in which you asked for the following information:

*"As a freedom of information request could you*

*1) update the tables with the latest data available*

*2) tell me what proportion of army applicants in 2014 made it through assessment, basic training 1, basic training 2*

*3) confirm whether asthma is a condition which excludes individuals from entering army service*

*4) tell me what pay band dog handlers are on*

*5) tell me what pay band health care assistants are on"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information.

The information to questions one, four and five is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. This information is already in the public domain. The pay progression tables can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/591343/20170125-FOI\\_12734\\_12737.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591343/20170125-FOI_12734_12737.pdf)

The pay rates and supplements for dog trainers and assistant healthcare workers can be found in Appendix 1 of the Army Forces Pay Review Body Report in the following links:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/603494/58422\\_Armed\\_Forces\\_Pay\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/603494/58422_Armed_Forces_Pay_Web_Accessible.pdf)

With regard to your second question, I have assumed you are referring to other ranks, rather than officer cadet information. I can only provide part of the answer because some of Phase 2 training is undertaken by tri-Service schools, who do not have the information on when recruits had applied to join the Army. In addition to this, the Output Combat Infantryman's Course is a combination of both Phase 1 and Phase 2. I can advise that 16% of those who applied to join the Army in 2014 have successfully completed the assessment phase. Under section 16 of the Act – advice and assistance – it might be helpful if I explained that the majority of those who do not make it to, or pass the assessment stage, are as a result of medical issues and candidates withdrawing their application. Finally there are still some candidates in the pipeline who may have been deferred and are only now coming through the process.

In answer to question three, details of when individuals who have suffered from asthma can or cannot join the Army are as follows:

*"1. Candidates with [asthma] symptoms confined to age less than 5yrs of age, or a single episode of wheeze associated with an acute respiratory tract infection (during which bronchodilator/inhaled steroid treatment may have been prescribed) may be graded P2 [accepted for entry].*


*2. Candidates with a recorded history of asthma, with the following features, would be normally graded P3 [not accepted for entry].*

- a. Those who have experienced symptoms or taken, or been prescribed any form of treatment within the last 4 yrs.*
- b. Those who have required more than one course of oral steroids.*
- c. Those who have required more than one nebulisation since the age of 5.*
- d. Those who have had a single admission to Intensive care or high dependency, or multiple admissions to hospital."*

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