



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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4 May 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 April 2017 requesting the following information:

1. *How long is the initial training to join the Royal Navy?*
2. *What is the average length of time prior to promotion for Officers and Other Ratings in the Royal Navy?*
3. *What is the average length of service by rank for those who have served in the Royal Navy?*

Thank you for your email. I am looking for the time between each promotion for question 2. For question 3, can I have the data for those who have left please?

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 Department holds the information you have requested and 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. How long is the initial training to join the Royal Navy?

A1. For RN Ratings Phase One training, also known as Initial Training lasts 10 weeks. For a standard Officer entrant to the RN, the length of Initial Officer training is 30 weeks which is split over two 15-week terms and includes an initial period at sea (currently 3 weeks). The only exceptions to this are for the Medics (Doctors and Dentists) and Chaplains who complete a 10-week initial militarisation package at Britannia Royal Naval College, followed by a branch specific 5-week package away from the College.

Q2. What is the average length of time prior to promotion for Officers and Other Ratings in the Royal Navy? I am looking for the time between each promotion.

A2.

Table 1: Average Length of service in previous rank for personnel promoted in the previous 12 months.

Rank	Average Length of Service in previous rank
Officers	
OF5 ⁴⁺ - Captain	7 years 6 months
OF4 - Commander and Chaplain	8 years 5 months
OF3 - Lieutenant Commander	8 years 7 months
OF2 - Lieutenant	2 years 2 months
OF1 - Sub-Lieutenant ²	N/A
Other Ranks	
OR9 - Warrant Officer 1 ³	5 years 6 months
OR8 - Warrant Officer 2	4 years 5 months
OR7 - Chief Petty Officer	6 years 4 months
OR6 - Petty Officer	5 years 5 months
OR4 - Leading Hand	6 years 6 months
OR2 - Able Seaman ²	N/A

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

Notes:

1. Includes trained and untrained regular personnel.

2. No data is present for these ranks as personnel enter the RN into these ranks so do not have a previous length of service.

3. Personnel get promoted into Warrant Officer 1 from either Warrant Officer 2 or directly from Chief Petty Officer therefore the previous length of service can beat either of these ranks.

4. For OF5+ the average length of service is based on promotions in the last 2 years. Data cannot be provided for ranks above OF5 as the number of personnel promoted in any one year is too low to provide robust results.

For the above table please be aware that for OR4 the length of service of 6 years and 6 months is referring to the time spent as an OR2 prior to promotion to OR4; and for OR6 the

length of service of 5 years and 5 months is the time spent as an OR4 prior to being promoted to OR6.

Q3. What is the average length of service by rank for those who have served in the Royal Navy? Can I have the data for those who have left please?

A3.

Table 2: Average Length of Service on Exit between 1 March 2015 and 28 February 2017 by Rank.

Rank	Average Length of Service on exit
Officers	
OF8 ³ - Vice Admiral	37 years 5 months
OF7 ³ - Rear-Admiral and Chaplain of the Fleet	34 years 7 months
OF6 ³ - Commodore and Principal Chaplain	34 years 4 months
OF5 - Captain	32 years 11 months
OF4 - Commander and Chaplain	26 years 10 months
OF3 - Lieutenant Commander	18 years 9 months
OF2 - Lieutenant	13 years 4 months
OF1 ² - Sub-Lieutenant	4 years 6 months
Other Ranks	
OR9 - Warrant Officer 1	30 years 8 months
OR8 - Warrant Officer 2	27 years 8 months
OR7 - Chief Petty Officer	24 years 4 months
OR6 - Petty Officer	19 years 5 months
OR4 - Leading Hand	11 years 9 months
OR2 - Able Seaman	6 years 3 months

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

Notes:

1. Includes trained regular personnel who have left the Royal Navy between 1 March 2015 and 28 February 2017 (with the exception of those Officer ranks covered by Footnote 3).
2. This data is based on a very small number of trained OF1's who have left in the last 2 years.
3. Based on Trained Regular Personnel leaving the Royal Navy between 1 March 2013 and 28 February 2017 due to the small number of personnel leaving these ranks.