



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/06031

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24 July 2017

Thank you for your email of 22 June in which you requested the following information:

Under the FOI Act, can you please provide details of the numbers of women who have applied to join the Royal Armoured Corps and any other units which are described as ground close combat roles.

Could you also provide details of the numbers of serving female soldiers who have applied to join the RAC.

Could you also provide details of the number of female soldiers currently serving in the Royal Armoured Corps in the close combat role.

I would also like details of the number of women who started but did not complete training for service within the RAC.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and is attached.

Q1. The Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) currently has 80 expressions of interest in joining. The Defence Secretary announced on 13 July that the Royal Air Force (RAF) are opening the RAF Regiment to women from September this year.

Q2 & Q3. 15 serving women have transferred into the RAC to date (5 Regular and 10 Reserves).

Q4. 10 women are in the training pipeline to join the RAC, with the final pass rate yet to be determined.

Notes: Numbers have been rounded the nearest five to as a means of disclosure control to preserve anonymity.

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). 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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]