



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2016/11677

Email: [REDACTED]

4 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 29 November 2016 in which you requested the following information:

“Royal Air Force

Can I have the figures of how many recruits fail their first stage of training and how many recruits have to retake the first stage of straining? Can I have these figures from 2010-2016.

Royal Navy

Can I have the figures of how many recruits fail their first stage of training and how many recruits have to retake the first stage of straining? Can I have these figures from 2010-2016.

British Army

Can I have the figures of how many recruits fail their first stage of training and how many recruits have to retake the first stage of straining? Can I have these figures from 2010-2016.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. A review of our data holdings has been completed, and I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request; this is provided below. The data provided differs slightly between the individual Services. The reasons for this are explained in the section for each individual Service.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where “-” denotes zero, “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

The Royal Navy (RN)

The Royal Navy (RN) has advised that in Training Year 2010/2011 there were around 180 personnel who failed Phase 1 Training and left the Navy. No RN personnel re-take the training, if need be they are put back a few weeks, but unless they choose to leave the RN, they keep going until they have passed.

Please see the table below which provides figures for RN Completion of Officer Phase 1 training and drop out numbers, Direct Entrant and Senior Upper Yardsman (SUY), as at 20 October 2016:

Training Year	Loss to RN	Pass
2012/13	20	220
2013/14	20	270
2014/15	20	310
2015/16	30	360
2016/17	20	250

The Army

The Army's data for this FOI request is as follows:

Notes:

'The first stage of training' has been taken as:

- Regular Direct Entry (DE) Officer:
 - The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) Commissioning Course
- Regular Other Ranks (OR):
 - Infantry Standard Entry (SE): Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) (Note: This is combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Course)
 - Under 18 Infantry and non-Infantry: Junior Entry (Short) (JE(S)) and Junior Entry (Long) (JE(L))
 - SE non-Infantry: Common Military Syllabus (Recruit) (CMS(R))

Ghurkhas and The Gibraltar Regiment are excluded from the Regular OR data.

Comment:

- Those who 'Discharge' include those who have been discharged as having a 'Defect on Enlistment (DoE)' which are a manifestations of the Recruiting Pipeline. This includes Initial Medical Assessment (IMA) failures and those who sustain an injury, or have another life event (such as a conviction), between Assessment Centre and Enlistment, which makes them ineligible to join the Army.
- All of the Entry paths above are very different in their nature, so comparisons between them should be treated with caution.

Entry Type	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13	
	Discharge	Output	Discharge	Output	Discharge	Output
Regular Officer	80	580	50	650	70	630
CIC	830	1010	1250	2370	910	2170
CMS	750	4360	860	4400	860	4710
JE	400	890	430	850	300	1190

Entry Type	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	Discharge	Output	Discharge	Discharge	Output	Discharge
Regular Officer	40	530	30	530	30	460
CIC	660	2060	600	1230	550	1570
CMS	690	3860	630	3420	850	3920
JE	290	1110	270	1010	240	1050

The Royal Air Force (RAF)

The number of RAF recruits who failed their Phase 1 training and those who re-took this training is as follows:

	1 st Time Passes	Withdrawals	Number of Recruits who re-took Phase 1
2010/11	1020	110	220
2011/12	930	150	300
2012/13	970	100	290
2013/14	1300	90	320
2014/15	1590	110	300
2015/16	1830	110	340

NB. For the RAF, 'Withdrawals' represent Voluntary Withdrawals and also Administrative or Medical Discharges

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,

Defence People Secretariat