



Ministry of Defence

[Redacted]

Ref: FOI2017/02909

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21st March 2017

Dear [Redacted]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2nd March 2017 requesting the following information:

'Could you please provide me with the following generic statistics - for the last 7 years if possible:

1. *The pass rate for the POET(MESM) qualifying course*
2. *The pass rate for the NPOC*
3. *The pass rate for the NPSupC course*
4. *When would a rating become 'double Cat B' qualified*
5. *The details of any financial bonuses associated with submarine service. For example*
 - a. *Retention bonuses*
 - b. *Qualification related bonuses. I understand that a £25,000 bonus is paid on receipt of the 'double Cat B qualification'*
 - c. *Regulations concerning submarine pay'*

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 information in scope of your request. Information in response to your first three questions can be found in the table below:

Nuclear Propulsion Operator Course (NPOC)
 Nuclear Propulsion Supervisor Course (NPSupC)
 Petty Officer Engineering Technician (POET) (Marine Engineering Submarine) Qualifying Course

[Redacted]

NPOC							
Attended	43	49	34	52	32	43	33
Passed	43	49	34	49	32	42	31

Percentage	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	97%	94%
NPSupC							
Attended	19	16	14	7	23	12	15
Passed	19	15	14	7	21	11	15
Percentage	100%	94%	100%	100%	91%	92%	100%
POET (MESM) QC							
Attended	3	0	13	8	22	32	22
Passed	3	0	10	8	21	31	22
Percentage	100%	0%	77%	100%	95%	97%	100%

Please note that there was zero attendance of the POET (MESM) qualifying course in 2010; due to the timings of the course, there were no students passing out within that calendar year.

With regard to question 4, after completion of the POET (MESM) course (including NPOC) personnel are required to qualify Cat B in their own Mechanical or Electrical sub-specialisation. There is no absolute requirement for these senior ratings to become 'double Cat B' qualified but a significant proportion choose to do so because the Recruitment and Retention Payment (Nuclear Propulsion) increases from £6.00 for single Cat B to £12.00 for those possessing 'double Cat B'. The 'double Cat B' qualification is a pre-selection requirement for the CPOET (MESM) course to progress to 'Cat A' level and therefore of interest to those seeking further promotion in their branch.

In answer to question 5, information on Retention Bonuses such as Recruitment and Retention Payment (Nuclear Propulsion), Recruitment and Retention Payment (Submarine) and Submarine Supplement is detailed in JSP 754 Tri-Service Regulations for Pay and Charges and can be found at the following hyperlink:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/community/documents/jsp754-tri-service-regulations-for-pay-and-charges/>

Please note that there are currently no extant MESM Financial Retention Incentives alluded to in question 5 5b as these all ceased to be payable after 31 March 2016.

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