



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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2018-02201

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Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Further to our letter of 12 March 2018, I am now in a position to respond in full to your request for the following information:

'I would be assisted if you could provide figures for the number of pilots who have applied for transfer to the Specialist Aviator pathway (Full Commission Stage - Aviator) each year for the past five years you have data available for. If you are able to break that down by service or by type of pilot That would be particularly helpful as I am specifically looking at the possible career path of a Fleet Air Arm helicopter pilot.

Could you also say of those total of applications how many were successful each year?

Finally are you able to provide figures for the number of application for those with FCS(A) commissions made for a Career extension at 55 years of age by year for the past five years, and how many were successful and what were the lengths of additional service granted of those extensions?

That is indeed the information I am seeking in relation to Q3. What I am unclear about in relation to the second part of the question is if the Extension is granted to a 55 year old Aviator is it for the full 5 years to 60, or is it for a shorter period?'

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

In our previous correspondence, we provided confirmation that a search had been conducted within the Ministry of Defence and information in scope of your request is held. However, in the same correspondence we also explained that it was determined that to provide some of the information you requested could fall within the scope of the exemption at Section 26(1)(a) and (b) (Defence) of the Act. After careful consideration, it has been

concluded that no prejudice would be caused by the release of this information and the balance of public interest therefore lies in releasing the information.

I should, however, inform you that to release the information in the format you have described in each part of your request could result in individuals being identified. We are not obliged to comply with a request under the exemption at Section 40(2) (Personal Data) of the FOI Act where such a response would disclose information relating to another individual who can be identified from that information.

Section 40(2) of the FOI Act applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met - and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further.

I am able to provide you with the total number of applicants for Full Commission Stage (Aviator) (FCS(A)) broken down by year and those that were successful for the period 2013 to 2017. This information is at Annex A, Table 1.

On the matter of part two of your request, in which you seek the number of those personnel serving on FCS(A) who applied and were successful for an extension of Service, I should point out that we only hold information on the number who were granted an extension of Service. The information has been suppressed to avoid unintentional identification of individuals and can be found at Table 2 to Annex A.

With regard to the last part of your request on the length of an FCS(A) extension, BR3 Volume 1 "Naval Personnel Management", Part 7, Chapter 49 contains details of extensions of service and can be found via the following link:

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/reference-library/br3vol1>

You will wish to note Article 4920.b.(2) which states that "FCS extensions will be limited according to Service requirements". In addition, Articles 4926 and 4927 provide that such extensions are dependent on the circumstances and can vary from six months to – exceptionally – five years.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

1. Table 1. Number of applicants who applied for transfer to the Specialist Aviator pathway (Full Commission Stage - Aviator) and those who were successful each year for the past five years:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of Applicants	10	15	10	10	10
<i>of which: Successful</i>	10	-	5	5	5

Note:

1. Data have been rounded to the nearest 5 where "-" represents zero.

2. Table 2. Number of personnel serving on FCS(A) commissions who were successful in receiving an extension of service over the past five years.

Number of personnel serving on FCS(A) / FTC(A) who were granted an Extension of Service*	10
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* The length of service extension may vary from six months to five years.

Note:

1. Data have been rounded to the nearest 5 where "-" represents zero.