

Ref: FOI2017/11785

Reply to: [REDACTED]

23 February 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2017 requesting the following information:

*"In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to ask the following questions with regard to the pass rate of applicants for a commission in the Reserves and the pass rate of applicants on the Reserve SAS Selection Course.*

- 1. What numbers of individuals applied for a Reserve Commission in the Years; 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013*
- 2. Of the numbers of individuals who applied for a Reserve Commission, how many were successful in obtaining a commission in the Years; 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013*
- 3. What numbers of individuals attended the Reserve SAS Selection Course in the Years 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013*
- 4. Of the numbers of individuals attended the Reserve SAS Selection Course, how many were successful in passing in the Years; 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013"*

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

I apologise for the time taken in replying to your correspondence.

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that the MOD holds some information in scope of this request.

There are multiple ways in which an individual can apply to join the Army Reserve as an Officer, from trained Soldier, from being a cadet; during the Soldier application process; and direct entry (DE) (all DE Officer applicants now must enlist as a Soldier first). We do not hold precise historic data on this in a way which enables us to answer this request. Therefore we do not have data for all years for all services.

Points 1 and 2 of this FOI request are exempt under Section 21 because apart from historic data which is not held, the latest available Service personnel statistics (SPS) (at 1 October 2017) provides some data relating to Points 1 and 2 of this FOI request:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-servicepersonnelstatistics-2017>

For Point 1, I refer you to the data in the SPS Tables 9a - 9c on number of applications for each of the Services. Regarding Point 2, the published statistics on untrained to trained strength for all ranks in the Services is at table 7a. The rows in table 7a of SPS that are required are 16 (All services), 25 (Maritime), 34 (Army) and 43 (RAF).

Turning now to Points 3 and 4 of this FOI request I advise you that under Section 23(1) of the FOI Act information regarding these points is exempt from release. Section 23 is an absolute exemption, in accordance with section 2(3)(b) of the FOI Act, therefore the public interest balance test set out in section 2(2)(b) does not apply.

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 [CIOFOIR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIOFOIR@mod.gov.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,

Defence People Secretariat FOI