



Ministry
of Defence

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Mr XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

10 October 2018

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Thank you for your email of 14 September in which you asked for the following information:

- *Average service length of early leavers.*
- *Average service length of all soldiers.*

- *Modal/Median rank of early leavers.*
- *Most prevalent reasons for leaving the army in early service leavers.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 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 has been provided below.

Please note that:

- The figures are for Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service and Mobilised Reserves.
- Early Service Leavers (ESLs) include trained and untrained personnel who left the Army within four years of joining, but excludes redundancies, medical discharges and deaths.
- Length of service has been calculated using entry date. LoS may reflect the current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since first joining the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service.
- Average Service Length includes trained and untrained personnel. These figures will differ from previously published career progression statistics which only include trained personnel.
- Admin and Discipline have been grouped together as per previous publications.
- Exit Reason data are for trained personnel only. Figures for untrained personnel by Exit Reason have known data quality issues from the underlying data source however, Admin / Discipline accounts for 97% of all Untrained Early Service Leavers exit reasons from the data we hold.

Early Service Leavers by Average Service Length, Modal and Median Rank and Exit Reason based on Financial Years 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018:

Average Service Length - Trained and Untrained Personnel

	Early Service Leavers	All Soldiers
Average Service Length	1 Year, 2 Months	7 Years, 7 Months

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Modal and Mean Ranks of Early Service Leavers

	Modal Rank Early Leavers	Mean Rank Early Leavers
Rank	Private	Private

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Trained Early Service Leavers by Most Prevalent Exit Reason

	Percentage
Admin / Discipline	80%

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

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

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Army Secretariat