



Ministry
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: FOI2018/16264

[Redacted]

17 January 2019

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 December 2018, which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In your e-mail you requested the following:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information on a Gunner in the RAF Regiment:

- *What are the chances of survival (chances of completing x years from entry to age 60/42 years for a RAF Gunner in the RAF Regiment.*
- *What are the chances of promotion from the New Entrant to WO and the average time taken for an Gunner to achieve promotion to each rank up to and including WO.*
- *How many by age and rank are currently serving on a Full Career of 35 years.*
- *How many by age and rank are currently serving in excess of 35 years and how many reach MEOS of 60 years of age.*

A search for the information has now been completed and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In answer to the first and second questions of your request, please find at Annex A a career projection for a new entrant into the RAF Regiment Gunner trade.

Please see below at Table 1 the number of individuals, by age and rank, who are currently serving on a Full Career of 35 years:

Table 1

Employee Age (Years)	WO # Current Employees	Flt Sgt # Current Employees	Sgt # Current Employees
37	-	~	-
38	-	~	-
39	-	10	-
40	-	10	-
41	-	~	-
42	-	~	-
43	-	~	-
44	-	~	-
45	~	~	~
46	~	~	-
47	~	~	-
48	~	~	~
49	~	~	-
50	~	10	-
51	~	10	-
52	~	10	-
53	10	~	-
54	~	~	-
55	~	-	-
56	~	~	-
57	~	~	-
Grand Total	30	80	~

Please see below at Table 2 the number of individuals, by age and rank, who are currently serving in excess of 35 years:

Table 2

Rank	Age	# Current Employees
Flt Sgt	53	~
Flt Sgt	54	~
WO	55	~

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligation in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded to 10, a "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5 but more than zero, and "-" denotes a zero.

There is currently no one who has reached the Mandated End of Service (MEOS) of 60 years of age.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, 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 normally investigate your case until the MOD internal 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,

Air Command Secretariat

Enc:

Annex A – Career Projection for a New Entrant into the Gunner trade.

Career Projection for a New Entrant into the Gunner trade.

LoS ¹	% chance of reaching LoS
0	84%
1	73%
2	70%
3	64%
4	53%
5	46%
6	40%
7	35%
8	31%
9	27%
10	25%
11	24%
12	21%
13	19%
14	18%
15	17%
16	17%
17	17%
18	16%
19	16%
20	16%
21	15%
22	9%
23	7%
24	6%
25	6%
26	5%
27	5%
28	5%
29	4%
30	4%
31	3%
32	3%
33	2%
34	2%
35	2%
36	1%
37	1%
38	0%
39	0%
40	0%

	% chance of a New Entrant being promoted in to rank	Average <i>total</i> length of service on promotion in to rank
AC/LAC	100%	
SAC	71%	1 year 3 months
LCPL	31%	5 years 7 months
CPL	23%	8 years 0 months
SGT	10%	13 years 8 months
FS	6%	21 years 0 months
WO	2%	27 years 3 months

¹ 'LoS x' means 'LoS greater than or equal to x but less than x+1'. So 'LoS21', for example, is the chance of personnel serving more than or equal to 21 years but less than 22 years.

² 'Chance of promotion in to rank, having already achieved the preceding rank' considers the trade as a whole and is not specific to LoS. It is based on trained and untrained personnel within the trade.

Notes

- a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data 2011/12 – 2017/18. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **New Entrants** into the **Gnr** trade - average career projections have been calculated.
- b. Defence Statistics' career forecasts are not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather are based on the historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics.