



Head of Defence Statistics (Air)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Ref: FOI2019/05135

[REDACTED]

16 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 April 2019 requesting the following information:

“statistics regarding the RAF Weapons Systems Officer (male) with 19 and 20 years’ service in the rank of Wg Cdr. Specifically could you provide:

1. The percentage chance of further service in this branch.
2. The percentage chance of promotion to further ranks and average LoS on promotion to these ranks. As previously could you also provide the percentage chance of promotion between ranks having already achieved the previous rank.
3. The average length of service in this branch.”

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

The information you have requested can be found in the Adobe (.pdf) file attached to the email.

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,

Head of Defence Statistics (Air)

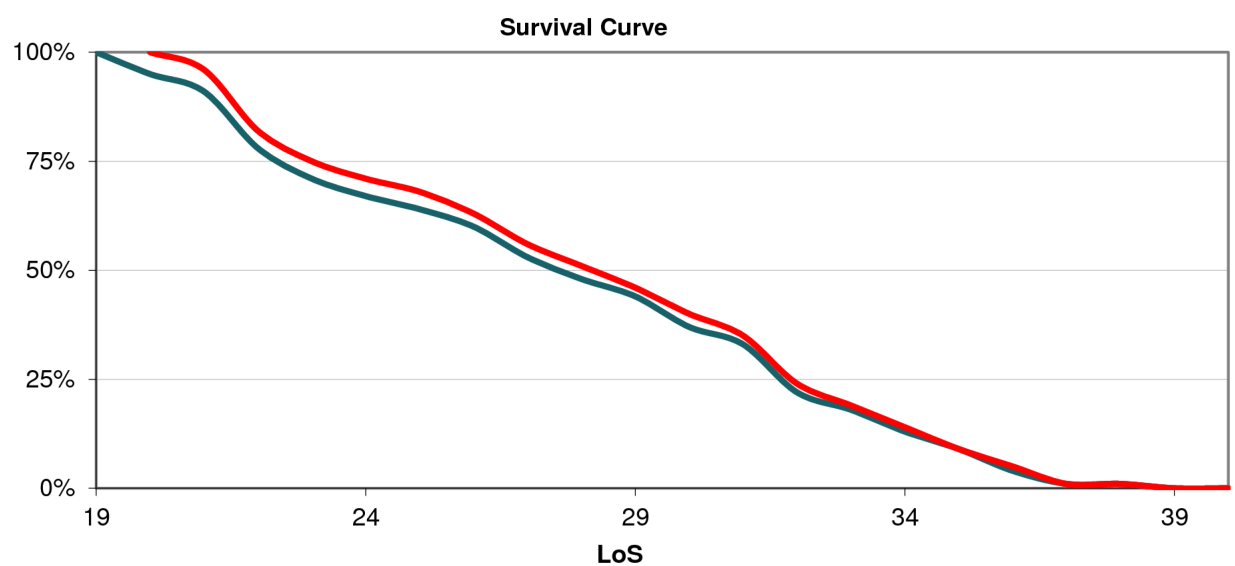
Would you like to be added to our contact list, so we can consult with you if we are thinking about making any changes to the statistics we compile? Please register your interest by e-mailing DefStrat-Stat-Air@mod.gov.uk.

Career Projection for a *male* Wing Commander in the Weapons Systems Officer branch with 19 years length of service and with 20 years length of service

LoS ¹	% chance of <i>male</i> Wg Cdr reaching LoS with...	
	19 yrs LoS	20 yrs LoS
19	100%	
20	95%	100%
21	91%	96%
22	78%	82%
23	71%	75%
24	67%	71%
25	64%	68%
26	60%	63%
27	53%	56%
28	48%	51%
29	44%	46%
30	37%	40%
31	33%	35%
32	22%	24%
33	18%	19%
34	13%	14%
35	9%	9%
36	4%	5%
37	1%	1%
38	1%	1%
39	0%	0%
40	0%	0%

	% chance of a <i>male</i> Wg Cdr being promoted to subsequent ranks		% chance of promotion for <i>male</i> personnel into rank, having already achieved the preceding rank ²	Average <i>total</i> length of service for <i>male</i> personnel on promotion into rank	
	19 yrs LoS	20 yrs LoS		19 yrs LoS	20 yrs LoS
WG CDR	100%	100%			
GP CAPT	34%	36%	30%	23 years 9 months	23 years 9 months
AIR CDRE +	12%	13%	35%	27 years 0 months	27 years 0 months

Average Return of Service for *male* personnel³ 23 years 8 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 having already achieved the preceding rank considers *males* in the branch as a whole and is not specific to LoS. It is based on trained and untrained *male* personnel within the branch.
- ³ Average Return of Service is the average length of service for *male* personnel on exit. It considers all trained and untrained *male* personnel in the branch as a whole and is not specific to rank or LoS.

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 - ***male* Wg Cdr** into the **WSO** branch with **19 years** and **20 years LoS** - 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.