



Ministry
of Defence

Head of Defence Statistics (Air)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Ref: FOI2019/04974

[REDACTED]

16 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 24 April 2019 requesting the following information:

"Statistics regarding the RAF Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) (for a male) new entrant specifically:

- 1. The percentage chance of reaching further service in this branch for male new entrants,*
- 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 for a male entrant."*

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)

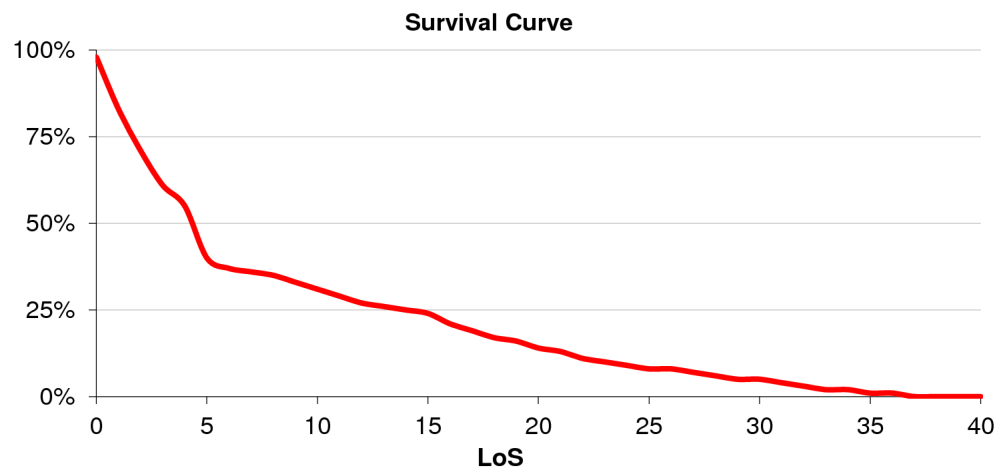
Career Projection for a *male* New Entrant in the Weapons Systems Officer branch

LoS ¹	% chance of reaching LoS
0	98%
1	83%
2	71%
3	61%
4	55%
5	40%
6	37%
7	36%
8	35%
9	33%
10	31%
11	29%
12	27%
13	26%
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22	11%
23	10%
24	9%
25	8%
26	8%
27	7%
28	6%
29	5%
30	5%
31	4%
32	3%
33	2%
34	2%
35	1%
36	1%
37	0%
38	0%
39	0%
40	0%

	% chance of a <i>male</i> New Entrant being promoted to subsequent ranks	% chance of promotion into rank, having already achieved the preceding rank ²	Average <i>total</i> length of service on promotion into rank
PLT OFF/FG OFF	100%		
FLT LT	87%	87%	Less than 1 complete year
SQN LDR	21%	18%	8 years 2 months
WG CDR	8%	37%	17 years 0 months
GP CAPT	2%	30%	23 years 7 months
AIR CDRE +	1%	35%	27 years 0 months

Average Return of Service³

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 male 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 all male personnel in the branch 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 on exit. It considers all trained and untrained *male* personnel within the branch 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 New Entrants** into the **WSO** branch - 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.