



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/07171/10/03

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 11 June in which you clarified your original FOI request and asked for the following information:

...you write that since October 2018: "already serving women have been able to apply for transfer into Infantry roles in the Infantry with immediate effect, and external applications to join the Infantry as well as the Royal Marines opened in December 2018 with training commencing this spring." This is the change that I am hoping to cover. I am interested in ... women who were already serving who transferred into infantry roles.

... I am interested in how many women took up this opportunity to transfer [into infantry roles] as a way to measure how significant a change it is. Numbers would be really helpful ... Are you able to provide figures?

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below, but falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) and has therefore been rounded. The exemption has been applied to the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Fewer than five women have transferred into infantry roles since October 2018. Please note that this figure is a single service estimate only and is not an official statistic produced by Defence Statistics.

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,

Army Secretariat