



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2019/08124

E-mail: Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 July 2019 in which you requested the following information:

'Your website and career advisors suggest that UCAS points are the only pre-requisite qualification accepted for entry as an officer. It is possible for an individual to have a good university degree and have insufficient UCAS points. Is such an individual eligible to enter the Royal Navy as an officer? If yes, how do they get past the careers office that says no? Are there any other equivalent qualifications (ie not UCAS points) that are accepted for officer entry to the Royal Navy?

How many people have been accepted onto Royal Navy officer training with equivalent qualifications (ie not UCAS points) between 2010-2019?

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In response to the first part of your request, I am able to tell you that it is possible for a candidate to be considered for entry to the Royal Navy as an officer without sufficient Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) points under exceptional circumstances, and to meet the needs of the Service. It may be helpful if I explain that the careers offices are aware of this and each case is looked at by the Admiralty Interview Board on an individual basis. Achievement of a good degree is taken into account and, although there are not many UK qualifications that have not been assessed by UCAS,

qualifications that are recognised by the Government's Register of Regulated Qualifications may also be considered.

With regard to the second part of your request, the MOD does not hold this information as we do not retain records of waivers granted for UCAS points.

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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section