



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2019/09593

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Thank you for your email of 19 August requesting the following information:

*"I would like to know how many members of the armed forces (including reserves and territorial army) have failed fitness tests in the past four years. Ideally I would like a yearly break down of data."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held. Information is presented below for each Service, **and are single service estimates**, not official statistics. Please note that all figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals have been rounded separately and therefore may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

## Royal Navy (RN)

The table below indicates the number of RN Regular personnel recorded as a fail at the end of each calendar year since 2015.

- The RN do not gather or hold any data for Reservists who have failed fitness tests. Figures therefore only include RN Regulars.
- The data represents RN Fitness Test (RNFT) results only.
- The RNFT is conducted on a 12-month rolling currency. Figures are captured by calendar year

Type	Year	Number
Regular	2015	780
Regular	2016	800
Regular	2017	1220
Regular	2018	1580

## **Army**

The table below indicates the number of Army personnel recorded as a fail at the end of each calendar year since 2015.

- The data represents Army Annual Fitness Test (AFT) results only
- The AFT is conducted on a 12-month rolling currency. Figures are captured by calendar year
- 2018 data covers the period 1 January to 19 November

Type	Year	Number
Regular	2015	520
Regular	2016	640
Regular	2017	660
Regular	2018	740
Reserve	2015	300
Reserve	2016	440
Reserve	2017	350
Reserve	2018	310

## **Royal Air Force (RAF)**

The numbers of RAF personnel, Regular and Reserve, that have a proficiency level of 'fail' for the fitness competence on the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA) from 1 January 2017 to 4 December 2018 is provided in the table below:

	1 January to 31 December 2017	1 Jan to 4 December 2018
Regular RAF	1180	1260
Reserve RAF	200	220

Figures are representative of personnel who have failed at least once in the time period.

In 2015 the RAF decided to change the way it recorded fitness test information. Therefore, data for 2016 cannot be provided with any degree of accuracy.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act I can advise you that data is available relating to the number of personnel who have failed a RAF Fitness Test prior to 2017 through published FOI responses that cover fitness and BMI; and obesity and fitness across the Armed Forces:

FOI2017/08051 and FOI2016/08149 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-26-november-2018>

FOI2015/06137 can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/468185/PUBLIC\\_1444143238.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/468185/PUBLIC_1444143238.pdf)

FOI2015/09594 can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/482291/20151123-FOI2015-09594.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482291/20151123-FOI2015-09594.pdf)

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. 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](mailto: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 review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI.