



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2019/11940/05/02

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28 November 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 17 October in which you requested the following information:

Could you please provide a full breakdown of the assessment criteria including training and assessment scoring matrix/methodology including the required pass mark for each event collectively known as The Parachute Regiment - PCompany.

*The assessment week is broken down into the following events Log run Stretcher Race
2 Miler
Milling
Endurance march*

Can you tell me the number of points required to pass each event.

Can you tell me how points are scored.

Can you tell the number of points required to pass the assessment week.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. Following your email of 17 October the department has considered this case further and it has been decided that some of the information requested is exempt under Section 26(b) of the Act (Defence), which exempts the release of information that if disclosed would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces.

Section 26(b) is a qualified exemption which requires a public interest test to establish the balance of releasing or withholding information. In this case, the arguments for release include the public interest in the criteria which personnel are required to meet to join the British Airborne Forces (P Coy). Arguments to withhold include the possibility that common knowledge of the scoring system would risk Officers and Soldiers weighting their levels of effort across the events to increase their opportunity to pass – this is contrary to the course requirement which demands maximum effort, thereby placing necessary mental and physical stress on its candidates.

It has been decided that on balance the scoring matrix used to assess the selection tests should be withheld, as the release would be likely to prejudice the capability of the Airborne Forces. However, the full breakdown of the test week can be released and is detailed below.

There are eight elements candidates must undertake during the test week.

1. 10 Miler – 1hr 50 mins
2. Trainasium – Pass/Fail
3. Log race 1.8 mile
4. Steeple chase – best effort over the set course
5. 2 Miler – 1 mile squadded followed by 1 mile best effort
6. 20 Miler – 4 hrs
7. Stretcher race – 5 miles.
8. Milling – 1 min

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,



Manning Team, **Army Secretariat**