



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2019/13766

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29 January 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 January 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'I'm looking for information on women and the Royal Marines please.

The number of enquiries received through armed forces careers offices for women interested in joining the Royal Marines?

How many women have taken the pre Potential Royal Marines Commando fitness test?

How many women have attended a potential Royal Marine course or potential officer course?

Please state the grades achieved by women on the PRMC or Potential Officer Course along with description of the grade categories?

How many of those were offered the opportunity to begin training? How many women declined the offer?

How many have begun training?

How many are in the process of setting a date to begin or have set a date to begin training?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

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

In response to part one of your request, information in respect of female expressions of interest for joining the Royal Marines can be found detailed within Table One of the attached Annex.

With regard to parts two, three, five, six and seven, information to satisfy these parts of your request can be found detailed within table two of the attached Annex.

In respect of part four of your request, information concerning course grades constitutes as personal data and has therefore been withheld under the exemption at section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOI Act. In addition, I should also advise you that the figures within table two cannot be broken down any further as disclosure could risk the identification of individuals and have been suppressed in line with our Disclosure Control Policy.

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would put the Department in breach of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 when handling personal data.

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). 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

Table One - Response to Q1

Female Expressions of Interest to the Royal Marines by Calendar Year

	2018	2019
Total	1150	1380
Royal Marine Officer	150	120
Royal Marine Commando	710	1070
Royal Marine Band Service	290	180

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias.
2. Note: EOI are sourced from multiple channels, a majority through social media, so no measure of genuine intent can be assumed from the figures below as opposed to a 'walk in' to a Careers Office.

Table Two - Response to Q2, 3, 5, 6 and 7

Number of females who:	
2) Attended the pre-Potential Royal Marines Commando Fitness Test	20
3) Attended the Potential Royal Marine Course/Potential Officer Course	~
5a) Offered a place in Recruit Training	~
5b) Declined an offered place in Recruit Training	-
6) Started Training	~
7) In process of setting a date/have set a date to begin training	-

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias, 5 or fewer is represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.
2. Figures are comprised of applications to Royal Marine Officer and Royal Marine Commando, it does not include applicants to the Royal Marine Band Service.

