



# Ministry of Defence

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FOI2019/13287

E-mail: [Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]

January 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

## Release of Information

Further to our letter of 3 January 2020 I am now able to respond in full to your request for the following information:

- "1. The statistical likelihood of a Petty Officer Weapon Engineering Technician, with 13 years' service from year 2006, reaching each rank up to the rank of Warrant Officer Weapon Engineering Technician, and the average time taken to reach each rank - excluding artificers.
2. The average return of service for the Weapon Engineering Branch for both ratings and officers.
3. The statistical likelihood of a new entrant to the Weapon Engineering Branch achieving each rank to the rank of Warrant Officer Weapon Engineering Technician and the time taken to reach each rank - excluding artificers.
4. How many including percentage of Senior Upper Yardman (SUY) have become a Weapon Engineering Officer with an Engineering Degree (BEng Hons/BSc Hons) in the last 5 years.
5. The average age for a Weapon Engineering Rating to become a SUY (Weapon Engineering)."

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

As explained in our interim response, a search was completed within the Ministry of Defence and it was confirmed that information in scope of your request is held. However, it was also explained that it was considered that some of the information may fall in scope of the exemption at Section 26 (Defence) of the FOI Act. After further deliberations it has been concluded that this exemption does not apply in this instance.

Information to satisfy parts one and three of your request can be found at the Annex to this letter. The data provided are produced using historic data from 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2019. Where identifiable, personnel who are recorded as an Artificer have been excluded from this analysis. However, some personnel in the historic data will have entered service as an Artificer but now have the specialisation of Engineering Technician following the cessation of the Artificer rank in 2010 - it is not possible to exclude them.

With regard to part two of your request on average return of service, I should first explain that when Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Marines personnel undertake specific courses of training, studies or receive financial bonuses, the Naval Service requires a return on their investment in the form of a Return of Service (ROS). ROS for the Weapon Engineer (WE) Branch, officers and ratings, is also at the annex.

In response to part four of your request, in accordance with the RN Book of Reference BRd3(1) 5022 there is no requirement for a WE Senior Upper Yardman (candidate to hold an Engineering Degree (BEng Hons/BSc Hons). As such this data is not held. Any Officer who has achieved an Engineering Degree (BSc/MSc etc.), either prior to selection as an Officer or after, may choose to record this qualification on JPA, but there is no requirement for them to do so. Consequently, we could not provide any accurate information for this part of your request. The relevant chapter of BR3d(1) is available via the following link:

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/-/media/royal-navy-responsive/documents/reference-library/br-3-vol-1/chapter-50.pdf>

With regard to part five of your request, the average age for a Weapon Engineering Technician to be promoted to Weapon Engineer Officer through the Senior Upper Yardsman scheme is 35 years. This is the median average calculated using historic data from 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2019.

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](mailto: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

**Response to Part One:**

**Table 1. Chance of promotion for an OR-6 Royal Navy Weapon Engineering Technician with a Length of Service (LOS) of 13 years:**

Rank		Chance of Promotion to rank
OR-7	Chief Petty Officer	58%
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	14%
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	10%

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

**Table 2. The expected LOS in rank, and expected LOS on promotion to rank in years, for an OR-6 Royal Navy Weapon Engineering Technician with LOS 13 years:**

Rank		Expected LOS in Rank	Expected LOS on promotion to the rank
OR-6	Petty Officer	5.6	N/A
OR-7	Chief Petty Officer	5.5	18.2
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	3.2	22.5
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	6.8	25.1

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. 'Expected LOS in rank' includes all exits from that rank, for example promotion to the next rank or exiting the Service.
2. N/A is present because personnel at the rank of OR-6 cannot be promoted to OR-6.

**Response to Part Two:**

**The average Return of Service for the Weapon Engineering Branch for both ratings and officers.**

Course	Return of Service
Qualifying Courses	Two and three years
Degree Course	Three years
Courses in receipt of Financial Incentive payments:	
WE General Service Senior Ratings - Financial Retention Incentives	Three years
WE Submariners Ratings – Payments on completion of Basic Submarine Qualification	Four years

**Response to Part Three:**

**Table 3. Chance of promotion for a New Entrant Royal Navy Weapon Engineering Technician:**

Rank		Chance of Promotion to rank
OR-4	Leading Rating	49%
OR-6	Petty Officer	25%
OR-7	Chief Petty Officer	13%
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	3%
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	2%

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

**Table 4. The expected LOS in rank, and expected LOS on promotion to rank in years, for a New Entrant Royal Navy Weapon Engineering Technician:**

Rank		Expected LOS in Rank	Expected LOS on promotion to the rank
OR-2	Able Rating	4.3	N/A
OR-4	Leading Rating	5.2	5.0
OR-6	Petty Officer	5.8	10.6
OR-7	Chief Petty Officer	5.9	16.4
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	3.2	21.9
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	7.1	24.4

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

1. 'Expected LOS in rank' includes all exits from that rank, for example promotion to the next rank or exiting the Service.

N/A is present because personnel cannot be promoted to OR-2.