



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2020/01494/04/02

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13 February 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 January in which you requested the following information:

- 1. The number of enquiries received through armed forces careers offices for women interested in joining the Paras? For 2018 and for 2019.*
- 2. How many women have taken the pre Pegasus Company fitness test?*
- 3. How many women have attended a potential paratrooper or Parachute Regt Officer course?*
- 4. Please state the grades achieved by women PPS course along with description of the grade categories?*
- 5. How many of those were offered the opportunity to begin training with Pegasus Company? How many women declined the offer?*
- 6. How many have begun training with Pegasus Company? If the number is too few can you confirm whether any females have begun Pegasus Company training?*
- 7. How many are in the process of setting a date to begin or have set a date to begin training with Pegasus Company?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 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. Some of this information is exempt from release under section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA. This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in deciding to withhold the information.

The MOD remains unable to provide a response to question one as information is not currently held on the number of enquiries received from Assessment Centres. The first point where data is available is when an application has been initiated.

Section 40(2) has been applied to the remainder of your request in order protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. As previously advised may be the case in my response of 28 January, disclosure of the information would contravene the

data protection principles by allowing identification of individuals due to the small numbers involved.

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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Manning Team, Army Secretariat