



Ministry
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4U

Ref: FOI/2019/08057

12 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2019 requesting the following information:

"I would be grateful if you could provide me with the relevant DS(Air) statistics in support of a legal compensation claim that I am dealing with:

For a male Personnel Support new entrant Officer

- 1. Length of service statistics out to 40 years*
- 2. Promotion statistics up to and including Air Commodore*
- 3. For a Sqn Ldr with 12 years service, the percentage chance of promotion to Wg Cdr, Gp Capt and ACdre*

If an individual is promoted to Wg Cdr in the Personnel Support Branch, are they automatically offered the opportunity to serve to the age of 60?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Information relating to Questions 1 to 3 has now been completed, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

A copy of the information you requested in points 1-3 can be found at Annex A. Please note that on 1 February 2016, the Personnel Branch was divided into Support and Training specialisations. As the seven year span of data used to generate this projection covers the single branch and subsequent division into separate branch specialisations, the attached data pertains to the Personnel Branch as a whole.

In response to your final question, an individual promoted to Wg Cdr in the Personnel Support Branch is not automatically offered the opportunity to serve to age 60 (a contract known as Mandated End Of Service (MEOS)). Instead, personnel are offered Length of Service (LOS) 35 which is to complete 35 years of reckonable commissioned Service. This can sometimes take personnel to age 60.

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). 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 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,

Air Command Secretariat

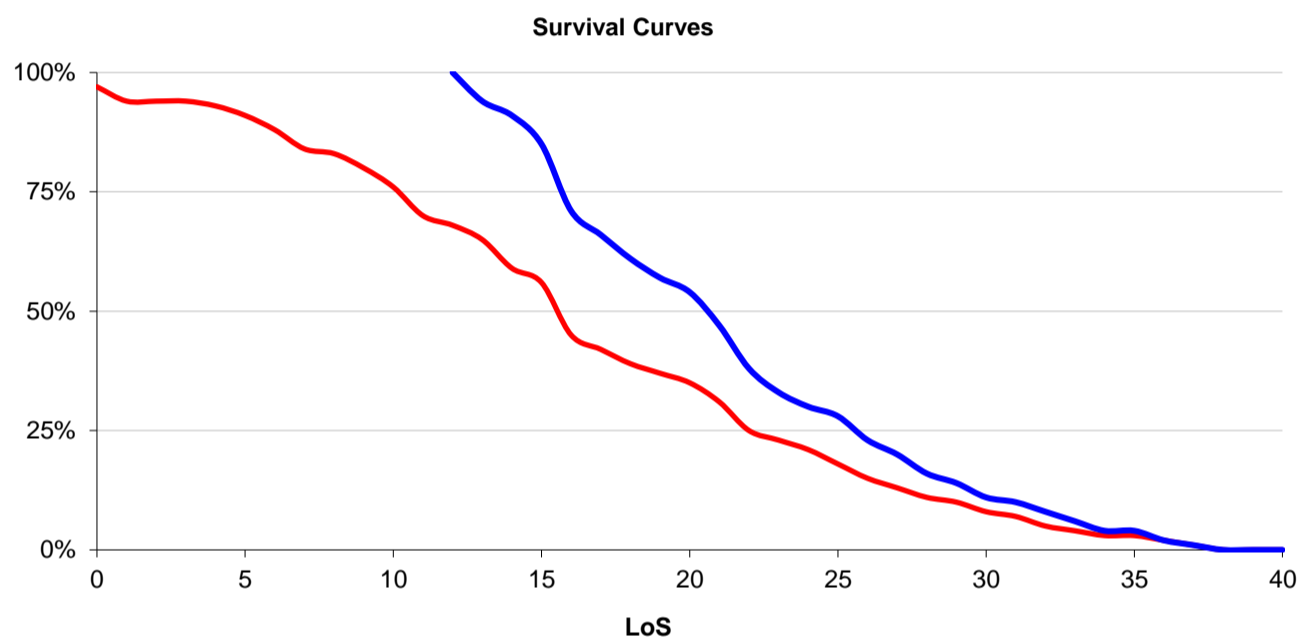
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Annex A – Career Projection for a male New Entrant and a male Squadron Leader with 12 years length of service in the Personnel Branch.

Career Projection for a *Male* New Entrant and a *Male* Squadron Leader with 12 years length of service in the Personnel Branch

LoS ¹	% chance of reaching LoS for Male New Entrant	% chance of reaching LoS for Male Sqn Ldr with 12yrs LoS
0	97%	
1	94%	
2	94%	
3	94%	
4	93%	
5	91%	
6	88%	
7	84%	
8	83%	
9	80%	
10	76%	
11	70%	
12	68%	100%
13	65%	94%
14	59%	91%
15	56%	85%
16	45%	71%
17	42%	66%
18	39%	61%
19	37%	57%
20	35%	54%
21	31%	47%
22	25%	38%
23	23%	33%
24	21%	30%
25	18%	28%
26	15%	23%
27	13%	20%
28	11%	16%
29	10%	14%
30	8%	11%
31	7%	10%
32	5%	8%
33	4%	6%
34	3%	4%
35	3%	4%
36	2%	2%
37	1%	1%
38	0%	0%
39	0%	0%
40	0%	0%

	% chance of <i>male</i> being promoted to subsequent ranks		% chance of promotion for <i>male</i> personnel into rank, having already achieved the preceding rank ²	Average total length of service for <i>male</i> personnel on promotion into rank	
	New Entrant	Sqn Ldr 12yrs LoS		New Entrant	Sqn Ldr with 12yrs LoS
PLT OFF/FG OFF	100%				
FLT LT	94%		94%	2 years 2 months	
SQN LDR	56%	100%	57%	10 years 6 months	
WG CDR	18%	39%	32%	16 years 8 months	16 years 3 months
GP CAPT	4%	8%	20%	23 years 3 months	23 years 2 months
AIR CDRE +	1%	2%	29%	26 years 4 months	26 years 4 months



¹ LoS x' means 'LoS greater than or equal to x but less than x+1'. So 'LoS21', for example, is the chance of personnel serving more than or equal to 21 years but less than 22 years.

² 'Chance of promotion having already achieved the preceding rank' considers all *males* in the branch and is not specific to LoS. It is based on trained and untrained *male* personnel within the branch.

Notes:

- a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data 2012/13 – 2018/19. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - *male New Entrants* and *male Sqn Ldrs* with 12 years length of service into the **Personnel** branch - average career projections have been calculated.
- b. Defence Statistics' career forecasts are not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather are based on the historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics.