



Ministry  
of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/12831/04/02

E-mail: [ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk)

Website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

09 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 12 November in which you requested the following information:

1. *Intake figures for the army gap year commission scheme over each of the last five years*
2. *Application figures for the army gap year commission scheme over each of the last five years*
3. *Information about some of trips abroad that recent (within past five years) gap year commission officers have done while on the scheme.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

1. Intake figures for the Army Gap Year Commission scheme over each of the last five years

**Table 1: Gap Year Commissions from 1st Jan 2016 to 1st October 2019**

Gap Year Commissions Intake	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>
2016	-
2017	10
2018	10
2019	20

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

## 2. Number of applications

**Table 2: Number of applications received for Gap Year Commissions over the last 5 Recruiting Years**

Recruiting Year	Applications
2016/17	58
2017/18	137
2018/19	143
2019/20	117

Source: Single Service estimate

### Notes/Caveats to Table 1 & 2

1. Gap Year Commissions (GYC) were suspended in 2007 and reintroduced in 2016.
2. "-" denotes zero or rounded to zero.
3. Figures have been rounded to 10 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
4. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
5. The figures are for the Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.

3. Under the FOI Act a Public Authority is not required to create new information to respond to requests. All Gap Year Commissions are individual, and subject to current operational commitments as well as individuals' availability and locality at any given time. Consequently, the information which you requested on specific trips is not held. The MOD does hold data that could be used to generate information to answer the request, however this would be considered 'new' information.

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](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,

██████████

Manning Team, **Army Secretariat**