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Ref: FOI2020/02443

20 March 2020

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about the number of apprentices in the MOD.

You requested the following information:

*“I would like to request, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, information about the number of apprentices employed in your department.  
Please could you provide me with the number of apprentices employed in the department (or members of staff also undertaking an apprenticeship) for the years 2018, 2019, and at present. Please could you present this as both a raw number, and as a percentage of your overall headcount.”*

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

Under section 16 of the Act (advice and assistance) it might be helpful to note that as apprenticeships can span more than one year, the data within any 12-month period will naturally fluctuate. I have therefore interpreted your question to mean the number of apprenticeship starts within the calendar years that you requested. I have also provided the number and proportion of apprentices currently working for the MOD which I hope you will find helpful.

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that all the requested information is held and detailed in the table below.

<b>Headcount</b>	<b>2018 Starts</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>2019 Starts</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Apprentices Currently working for the MOD</b>	<b>Percentage of Apprentices currently working for the MOD</b>
<b>56723</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>2.91</b>

Also, under Section 16 of the Act you might wish to be made aware that a Parliamentary Question on this subject was answered on 3 Feb 2020. A link to the response is provided below:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2Clords&member=4356&dept=11&uin=9047>

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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,

Defence Business Services Secretariat