



Ministry  
of Defence

## Recruit Trainee Survey - Cover Note 2019/20

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The statistical release found separately provides results from the Recruit Trainee Survey (RTS) 2019/20. The RTS is administered to all Phase 1 and 2 training establishments to gauge Phase 1 recruits' and Phase 2 trainees' attitude, background, perceptions and experience of training and hopes for the future. The data is used to inform colleges on their performance, and to compare results with required standards set by the MOD.

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**Background quality report:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/recruit-trainee-survey>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk)

## Methodology

All trainees and recruits who have completed at least two weeks training were invited to participate in the survey. Participants complete an anonymous and confidential online questionnaire.

The survey was carried out over a 12 month survey period (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) to bring it in-line with the military calendar. During this time there were 14,721 responses to the questionnaire. Overall, 4,353 Phase 1 Army recruits and 2,993 Phase 2 Trainees, 1,619 Phase 1 Royal Navy recruits and 1,884 Phase 2 Trainees and 1,918 Phase 1 RAF recruits and 1,297 Phase 2 Trainees completed the Survey. Royal Marines Phase 1 responses were 1,108 and in Phase 2, 56.

A detailed explanation of the statistical reliability of this survey is found in Annex A of the main report, however it should be noted that due to non-response we cannot be certain that the figures obtained are exactly those we would have found, had everybody been interviewed (the 'true' values).

For any percentage given 'confidence intervals' are estimated within which the true values are likely to fall. For example; if 180% or 90% of our sample of 7,003 Phase 1 recruits strongly agreed that the training was what they expected, we can be 99% confident that the 'true' value would be between 10.5% and 9.5% (if 10% strongly agree) and between 90.5% or 89.5% (if 90% strongly agree), i.e. a margin of 0.5% on each side.

**Table 1: Response rates**

		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>2019/20 Response rate</b>	<b>2018/19 Response rate</b>	<b>2017/18 response rate</b>
<b>Phase 1</b>	Army	4,353	54	78	69
	Navy	1,619	73	71	76
	RAF	1,918	94	76	86
	Royal** Marines	1,108	~	-	-
	<b>Total Phase 1</b>	<b>8,998</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Phase 2*</b>	Army	2,993	60	60e	34
	Navy	1,321	49	53e	35
	RAF	1,363	80	69e	39
	Royal Marines	56	~	99	-
	<b>Total*** Phase 2</b>	<b>5,723</b>	-	61e	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,721</b>		68e	<b>50</b>

Some Phase 2 trainees completed the survey more than once depending on the structure of their Phase2 training.

\*\* Ph2 Royal Marine's reported separately in 2019-20 for the first time.

\*\*\* Response rates are based on the number of recruits and trainees who had completed at least 2 weeks training. In some cases, recruits/trainees may have not been given the opportunity to complete the survey, rather than actively not choosing to complete it. ~ Due to technical problems encountered during data collection, Phase 1 responses for the Royal Marines include approximately 250 responses from Phase 2 Trainees at CTCRM Lympstone. Some in the sample may have completed the survey twice if they have completed both a Phase 1 and Phase 2 course. It is not possible to state response rates but they are estimated at 98%<sup>e</sup> for Phase 1 and 85%<sup>e</sup> for Phase 2.

<sup>e</sup> Estimate of response rate provided

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## Statistical Testing

As part of the continuous improvement process, the application of statistical testing was reviewed in 2017/18. The review identified that the robustness of the report could be improved by reducing the number of pairwise comparisons for each item (from 29 to 6), and by reducing the significance level (from 0.05 to 0.01).

## Revisions

Corrections to the published statistics will be made if errors are found, or if figures change as a result of improvements to methodology or changes to definitions. When making corrections, we will follow the Ministry of Defence [Statistics Revisions and Corrections Policy](#). All corrected figures will be identified by the symbol “r”, and an explanation will be given of the reason for and size of the revision. Corrections which would have a significant impact on the utility of the statistics will be corrected as soon as possible, by reissuing the publication. Minor errors will also be corrected, but for convenience these corrections may be timed to coincide with the next annual release of the publication.

## Further Information

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/recruit-trainee-survey>**

## Contact Us

The MOD welcomes feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication, you can contact us as follows:

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If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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