



Ministry  
of Defence

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

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

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

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

8 October 2020

Dear XXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September in which you requested the following information:

- 1. In the last five years for which figures are available, how many army recruits under the age of 18 have been recorded as AWOL, and where were they based at the time?*
- 2. Of these, please could you also tell me how many recruits were committed to the Military Corrective Training Centre?*

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 the MOD holds information within the scope of your enquiry.

In answer to question one: In the last five years there have been 20 AWOL reports made in relation to army recruits under the age of 18.

Notes/Caveats:

- This figure represents the number of AWOL reports made, not the number of individuals reported as AWOL. The same individual can be posted as AWOL more than once if they return to their unit in the meantime.
- Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Rounding is used as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity.
- This data has been provided from a single service source rather than official statistics produced by Defence Statistics as they do not collate this information.

These AWOL reports related to recruits based at the following locations:

Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire  
Bovington Garrison, Dorset  
Army Foundation College, Harrogate  
Weeton Barracks, Preston

Buckley Barracks, Chippenham  
Larkhill Garrison, Salisbury  
Normandy Barracks, Leconfield, East Yorkshire  
Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Surrey

The answer to your second question is: None.

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