



Ministry
of Defence

Acting Civil Secretary
Army Personnel Centre
Mail Point 501
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
GLASGOW G2 8EX

E-mail: APC-Sp-ParlBus-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2020/00792

14 February 2020

Dear 

Thank you for your e-mail of 20 January, requesting the following information regarding Household Cavalry and RAC SNCOs' engagements:

Open Engagement transfers to VEng (Full)

1. During the period 2016 to 2019, were any offers made to Household Cavalry and RAC SNCOs to transfer from a 22-year Open Engagement to a VEng (Full) Engagement of 24 years?
2. If offers were made, please supply the numbers of offers made by year as a total?

Promotion criteria/policy for promotions from SSGT to WO2

3. For SSGT to WO2 promotion boards in years; 2017, 2018 and 2019. What was the minimum residual service a candidate needed to have to be eligible for consideration for promotion at the board?
4. What date was used for calculating the residual service? If it was the date of the promotion board then please supply the dates they occurred for each year.
5. If a SSGT, on an Open Engagement, was selected for promotion to WO2 but had less than 2 years residual service would their End of Engagement Date (EED) be delayed to the 2 year point as a substantive WO2 for pension purposes? Alternatively, would they be transferred to an VEng (Full) and extended to the 24 year point even if this would mean they served over 2 years as a substantive WO2?

6. For SSGT to WO2 promotion boards in years; 2017, 2018 and 2019. How many candidates were selected for promotion to WO2? Of that number, how many promoted at 1st look?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The information is shown at Annex A.

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.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

Acting Civil Secretary

ANNEX A

1. During the period 2016 to 2019, were any offers made to Household Cavalry and RAC SNCOs to transfer from a 22-year Open Engagement to a VEng (Full) Engagement of 24 years?

- Yes

2. Numbers of offers made by year and as a total.

| Year | * Offers made |
|-------|---------------|
| 2016 | - |
| 2017 | - |
| 2018 | 200 |
| 2019 | 420 |
| Total | 620 |

3. For SSGT to WO2 promotion boards in years; 2017, 2018 and 2019. What was the minimum residual service a candidate needed to have to be eligible for consideration for promotion at the board?

- One year

4. What date was used for calculating the residual service? If it was the date of the promotion board then please supply the dates they occurred for each year.

- 1 April each year

5. (a) If a SSGT, on an Open Engagement, was selected for promotion to WO2 but had less than 2 years residual service would their End of Engagement Date (EED) be delayed to the 2-year point as a substantive WO2 for pension purposes?

- No

(b) Alternatively, would they be transferred to an VEng (Full) and extended to the 24-year point even if this would mean they served over 2 years as a substantive WO2?

- No

6. For SSGT to WO2 promotion boards in years; 2017, 2018 and 2019. How many candidates were selected for promotion to WO2? Of that number, how many promoted at 1st look?

| Year | * No of promotions | 1 st look promotions |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2017 | 50 | Not held |
| 2018 | 50 | Not held |
| 2019 | 40 | Not held |

* Rounding:

Under National Statistics rounding conventions all figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded up to the nearest multiple of 10 to avoid systematic bias. Figures below 5 are denoted by ~, zero is denoted by -.

Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.