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10 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED].

Thank you for your email of 23 March in which you requested the following information:

*"In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to ask that you provide me with the following information regarding REME Artificers:*

*For the years 2017; 2018 and 2019:*

1. The number of REME soldiers assessed at the Potential Artificer Assessment Board (PAAB) with a trade group breakdown.
2. The number of REME soldiers who passed the PAAB with a trade group breakdown.
3. The number of REME soldiers who were assessed at the Artificer Selection and Course Loading Board for artificer training by trade.
4. The number of REME soldiers who were selected for artificer training by trade.
5. The percentage of artificers promoted to WO2.
6. The percentage of artificers promoted to WO1."

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 information in scope of your request is held and is shown in the tables below.

In response to parts one and two of your request:

Table 1: *The number of REME soldiers assessed at the Potential Artificer Assessment Board (PAAB) who passed with a trade group breakdown in 2017*

2017 Training Year (Apr17-Mar18)								
Trade	Aircraft Technician	Land Systems Technician	Vehicle Mechanic	Armourer	Avionics Technician	Recovery Mechanic	Metalsmith	Technical Stores Specialist
Pass	10	20	120	20	10			
DW 6m			-					
DW 12m		-	20	10				
DW 18m			10	10				
DW 24m	-		10	-				
N.S.			10	-				
Totals	10	20	170	40	10	-	-	-
<b>Total Attendees = 250</b>								

Table 2: The number of REME soldiers assessed at the Potential Artificer Assessment Board (PAAB) who passed with a trade group breakdown in 2018

2018 Training Year (Apr18-Mar19)								
Trade	Aircraft Technician	Land Systems Technician	Vehicle Mechanic	Armourer	Avionics Technician	Recovery Mechanic	Metalsmith	Technical Stores Specialist
Pass	-	20	100	20	10	-		
DW 6m			-					
DW 12m		10	20	10	-	-		
DW 18m		-	10	-				
DW 24m		-	10	-				
N.S.			-	-	-	-		
Totals	-	30	140	30	10	-	-	-
<b>Total Attendees = 210</b>								

Table 3: The number of REME soldiers assessed at the Potential Artificer Assessment Board (PAAB) who passed with a trade group breakdown in 2019

2019 Training Year (Apr19-Mar20)								
Trade	Aircraft Technician	Land Systems Technician	Vehicle Mechanic	Armourer	Avionics Technician	Recovery Mechanic	Metalsmith	Technical Stores Specialist
Pass	10	30	100	10	10	10	-	
DW 6m		-	-					
DW 12m	-	10	20	10		-	-	-
DW 18m	-	-	20	10		-		
DW 24m		-	10	-		-		-
N.S.			10	-				
Totals	10	40	160	30	10	10	-	-
<b>Total Attendees = 260</b>								

In response to part three of your request

Table 4. The number of REME soldiers who were assessed at the Artificer Selection and Course Loading Board for artificer training by trade.

	Armr- Armourer	AC – Aircraft Technician	AV – Avionics Technician	Elect – Electronics Technician	VM – Vehicle Mechanic
2017	30	30	10	80	270
2018	30	20	10	50	240
2019	20	20	20	40	230

Table 5. The number of REME soldiers who were selected for artificer training by trade.

	Armr	AC	AV	Elect	VM
2017	10	10	10	20	50
2018	10	10	10	20	40
2019	10	10	10	20	40

#### Notes/Caveats to Tables 1-5

- 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.
- Figures have been rounded to 10 for presentational purposes; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
- “-” denotes zero or rounded to zero.
- Tables 1- 3: Please note that data of personnel who attended the board but were deferred should be treated with caution as some of the personnel attended the subsequent board.
- Tables 1- 3: DW 6, 12, 18 or 24m = Deferred Watch in months (those who attended the board fell short of meeting the required standard to pass the board).
- Tables 1- 3: N.S. = Not Suitable.

In response to questions five and six, please see the tables below:

Table 6: Number and Percentage of SSgts with Trade of Artificers Promoted to WO2 in REME

	2017		2018		2019	
Trade	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Artificers	70	20.2%	60	17.7%	70	19.9%

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Table 7: Number and Percentage of WO2 with Trade of Artificers Promoted to WO1 in REME

	2017		2018		2019	
Trade	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Artificers	60	22.9%	70	27.1%	60	23.4%

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Table 8: REME personnel with Trade of Artisans and Artificers Promoted to WO2 as percentage of REME WO2 Promotions

		Trade			
		Artisans		Artificers	
	Total REME WO2 Promotions	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
2017	100	30	29.1%	70	70.9%
2018	100	30	32.3%	60	67.7%
2019	110	40	33.0%	70	67.0%

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Table 9: REME personnel with Trade of Artisans and Artificers Promoted to WO1 as percentage of REME WO1 Promotions

		Trade			
		Artisans		Artificers	
	Total REME WO1 Promotions	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
2017	60	10	9.2%	60	90.8%
2018	70	-	4.3%	70	95.7%
2019	60	10	11.3%	60	88.7%

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

#### Notes/Caveats to Tables 6-9

- Figures are for Trade Trained Regular strengths only and therefore exclude FTRS and Gurkhas but include those individuals who have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
- Figures are using Paid Ranks only.
- Trades have been determined via the field Main Trade for Pay in the Army Administration database.
- Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
- Totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
- Unrounded figures are used in the calculation of percentages.
- Table 6 and 7 represents the number of Artificers who gained promotion as a percentage of average strength of the rank being promoted from over the time period. For example, Table 1 shows the percentage of Artificer Staff Sergeants being promoted per year from the average strength from the average Artificer Staff Sergeant population in that year.
- Table 8 and 9 represents the proportion of REME WO2 promotions by Artisans and Artificers.
- "-" denotes zero or rounded to zero.

I apologise that it has taken slightly longer to reply than it would normally have done, but hope you will understand this is because of the unusual circumstances in which we are currently working during the Coronavirus pandemic.

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,

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