



Ministry
of Defence

Officer Cadet Survey - Cover Note 2020/21

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The statistical release found separately provides results from the Officer Cadet Survey (OCS) 2020/21. The OCS is administered to four of the Armed Services initial officer training colleges to gauge officer cadets' background, perceptions of training, facilities and food, support, fairness of treatment, general perceptions of the course 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/officer-cadet-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

Methodology

All officer cadets 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 2020 to 31 March 2021). During this time, there were responses to the questionnaire. Overall, 250 RAF officer cadets, 228 Army officer cadets, 190 Navy officer cadets and 14 RM officer cadets completed the survey.

The overall response rate for all four colleges in 2020/21 was 53% compared with 61% in 2019/20.

There have been small changes in the respondent profile in terms of age and gender. The data is not weighted to take account of non-response.

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

A detailed explanation of the statistical reliability of this survey is found in page 25 of the executive summary, 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' within which the true values are likely to fall are estimated. For example; if 10% or 90% of our sample of 228 Army officer cadets strongly agreed that the training was what they expected, we can be 99% confident that the 'true' value would be between 13.8% or 6.2% (if 10% strongly agree) and between 93.8% or 86.2% (if 90% strongly agree) i.e. a margin of 3.8% on each side. Confidence levels for each Phase, Service and response frequencies are shown at page 27 of the Executive Summary

Table 1: Response rates

	2020/2021 Total Responses**	2019/2020 Total Responses**	2018/2019 Response Rate %	2016/2017 Response Rate %
Army	228	116	46%	19%
Navy	190	305	58%	88%
RAF	250	416	61%	98%
Royal Marines	14	28	23%	57%
TOTAL	682	865	53%	61%

**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.

Further Information

Statistical Testing

Results of statistical testing are reported in the Executive Summary. Comparisons have been reported where the year-on-year differences were found to be statistically significant and therefore likely to reflect true shifts in perceptions or attitudes.

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.

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:

Telephone

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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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