



Ministry  
of Defence

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**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

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Ref: FOI2021.06005

[REDACTED]

02 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 04 June 2021 requesting the following information:

I would be grateful if you could provide statistics regarding the RAF Pilot branch males and females, specifically,

1. The percentage chance of reaching further service in this branch for new entrants.
2. The percentage chance of promotion into further ranks as a new entrant and average LoS on promotion to these ranks. Could you also provide the percentage chance of promotion between ranks having already achieved the previous rank.
3. The average length of service in this branch for a new entrant.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you have requested can be found in the Adobe (.pdf) files attached to the email.

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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,

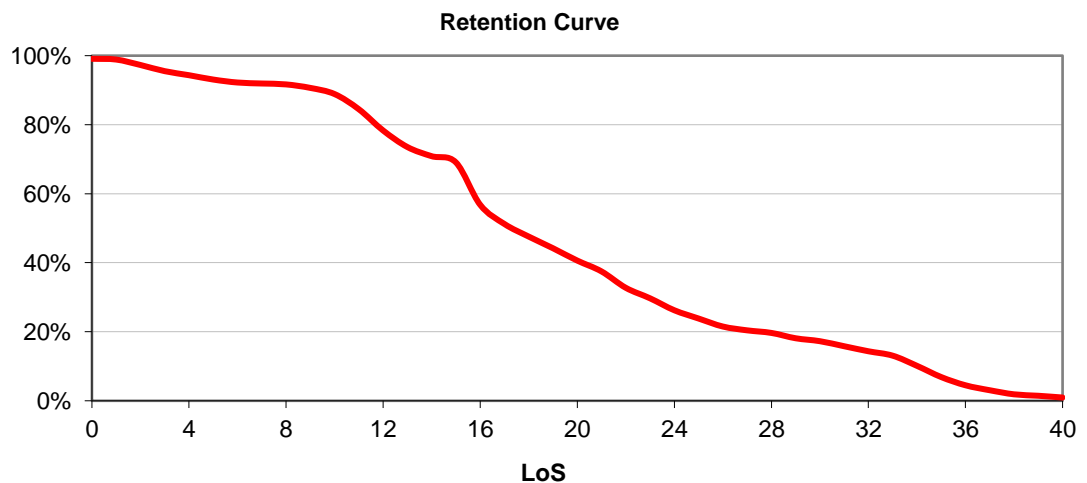
Head of Analysis Air

Would you like to be added to our contact list so we can consult with you if we are thinking about making any changes to the statistics we compile? Please register your interest by e-mailing [analysis-air@mod.uk](mailto:analysis-air@mod.uk)

## Career Projection for a *male* New Entrant in the Pilot Branch.

LoS <sup>1</sup>	% chance of reaching LoS for a <i>male</i> New Entrant	% chance of <i>male</i> New Entrant being promoted in to rank	% chance of promotion for a <i>male</i> New Entrant in to rank, having already achieved the preceding rank <sup>2</sup>	Average (mean) total length of service on promotion in to rank for a <i>male</i> New Entrant...
0	99%			
1	99%			
2	97%			
3	96%	PLT OFF/FG OFF	100%	
4	94%	FLT LT	98%	98%
5	93%	SQN LDR	38%	36%
6	92%	WG CDR	15%	39%
7	92%	GP CAPT	7%	48%
8	92%	AIR CDRE +	4%	58%
9	91%			
10	89%			
11	84%			
12	78%			
13	74%			
14	71%			
15	69%			
16	57%			
17	51%			
18	48%			
19	44%			
20	41%			
21	37%			
22	33%			
23	30%			
24	26%			
25	24%			
26	22%			
27	20%			
28	20%			
29	18%			
30	17%			
31	16%			
32	14%			
33	13%			
34	10%			
35	7%			
36	4%			
37	3%			
38	2%			
39	1%			
40	1%			

Average (mean) Length of Service<sup>3</sup> 14 years 6 months



<sup>1</sup> 'LoS x' means 'LoS greater than or equal to x but less than x+1'. So 'LoS21', for example, is the chance of personnel serving more than or equal to 21 years but less than 22 years.

<sup>2</sup> 'Chance of promotion in to rank, having already achieved the preceding rank' considers the branch as a whole and is not specific to LoS. It is based on trained and untrained personnel within the branch.

<sup>3</sup> 'Average (mean) Length of Service' is the average length of service. It considers trained and untrained personnel within the trade and is not specific to rank or LoS.

**Notes:**

a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data **2014/15 – 2020/21**. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **male New Entrants** in the **Pilot** branch - average career projections have been calculated.

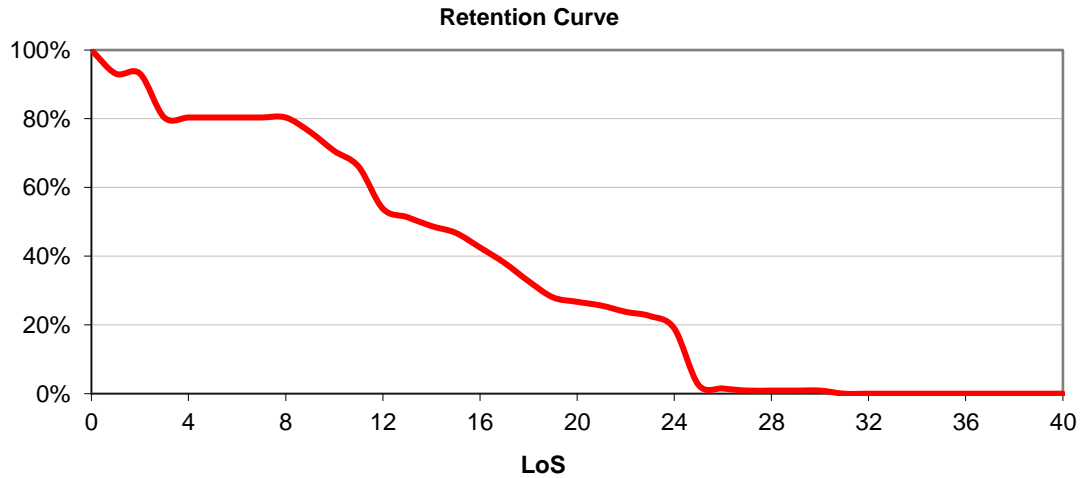
b. Analysis Air' career forecasts are not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather are based on the historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics.

c. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number, in the case of 0%, it is not actually zero, just a very small number.

## Career Projection for a *female* New Entrant in the Pilot Branch.

LoS <sup>1</sup>	% chance of reaching LoS for a <i>female</i> New Entrant	% chance of <i>female</i> New Entrant being promoted in to rank	% chance of promotion for a <i>female</i> New Entrant in to rank, having already achieved the preceding rank <sup>2,3</sup>	Average (mean) total length of service on promotion in to rank for a <i>female</i> New Entrant...
0	100%			
1	93%			
2	93%			
3	80%	PLT OFF/FG OFF	100%	
4	80%	FLT LT	80%	80%
5	80%	SQN LDR	23%	29%
6	80%	WG CDR	8%	36%
7	80%	GP CAPT	0%	0%
8	80%	AIR CDRE +	0%	0%
9	76%			
10	71%			
11	66%			
12	54%			
13	51%			
14	49%			
15	47%			
16	43%			
17	38%			
18	33%			
19	28%			
20	27%			
21	26%			
22	24%			
23	23%			
24	19%			
25	3%			
26	2%			
27	1%			
28	1%			
29	1%			
30	1%			
31	0%			
32	0%			
33	0%			
34	0%			
35	0%			
36	0%			
37	0%			
38	0%			
39	0%			
40	0%			

Average (mean) Length of Service<sup>4</sup> 12 years 7 months



<sup>1</sup> 'LoS x' means 'LoS greater than or equal to x but less than x+1'. So 'LoS21', for example, is the chance of personnel serving more than or equal to 21 years but less than 22 years.

<sup>2</sup> 'Chance of promotion in to rank, having already achieved the preceding rank' considers the branch as a whole and is not specific to LoS. It is based on trained and untrained personnel within the branch.

<sup>3</sup> Chance of promotion into the rank of Gp Capt is shown as 0%, this is due to no female pilots promoted above the rank of Wing Commander in the data set used to produce this career projection.

<sup>4</sup> 'Average (mean) Length of Service' is the average length of service. It considers trained and untrained personnel within the trade and is not specific to rank or LoS.

**Notes:**

- a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data 2014/15 – 2020/21. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **female New Entrants** in the **Pilot** branch - average career projections have been calculated.
- b. Analysis Air' career forecasts are not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather are based on the historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics.
- c. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number, in the case of 0%, it is not actually zero, just a very small number.