



**Defence Business Services**  
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Ref: FOI2021/12989

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

22 November 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2021, requesting:

*This Freedom of Information (FOI) request is submitted to gain a perspective on numbers applying to join the Civil Service under the headline, Civil Service starts guaranteed interview scheme for Veterans, published on 05 October 2020.*

*The basis of my request is to find out how many military veterans have applied for employed positions in your department (to include your 25 agencies and public bodies) under the 'Great Place to Work for Veterans' initiative from the Conservative Government's Manifesto pledge? I am requesting a breakdown in numbers from the following:*

- 1. How many Veterans have applied through the Civil Service website and other recruiting outlets to join your department?*
- 2. How many Veterans have been successful moving to the next stage of the application process after the submission of their application, i.e. guaranteed interview or online tests as described in the online bulletin?*
- 3. How many Veterans have been physically interviewed for positions in your department?*
- 4. How many Veterans have been unsuccessful after the initial sift of their application?*
- 5. How many Veterans have been successful in gaining employment within your department?*

*My request is based on personal research and refers to the following web page.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/civil-service-starts-guaranteed-interview-scheme-for-veterans>

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held.

Please see the responses and analysis of the data held below in the order that they were requested:

1. A total of 2408 veterans applied via CS Jobs. However, of those, 631 failed to complete and submit a full application and could not be progressed. In addition, 211 were rejected after failing the online test, and 140 withdrew their application at other stages.

2. Online tests are applied after the candidate has submitted the initial short form application. The online tests are part of the sift and selection tools available to recruiting line managers and therefore are not applied to every vacancy. I can confirm that at this stage, 211 candidates were rejected after failing the online tests. The application would not be progressed any further, and the candidate would not get the opportunity to submit a full application. A total of 1359 candidates were progressed to the sift stage for assessment by recruiting managers. Of that 1359, there are currently 223 applications still awaiting assessment.

Candidates utilising the 'Great Place to Work for Veterans' initiative, are not guaranteed an interview unless the application submitted meets the minimum criteria.

3. 443 were invited for interview, however out of those, 82 withdrew their applications at the interview stage.

4. 674 were unsuccessful at the sift stage.

5. 100 candidates were successful. Of these, 44 have started in post. Additionally 45 candidates are on a reserve list for a post.

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

Defence Business Services Secretariat