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Dear 

Thank you for your email of 03 March in which you requested the following information:

"I would like to know how many Reserve officers (compared to Regular) conducted paid PhDs this year, compared to last year?"

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. 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.

There were no Reserve officers undertaking an Army funded PhD last year or this year.

To compare that to Regular officers, in Academic Year (AY) 2019/2020 i.e. from August 19 – July 20 there were 6 Regular Officers undertaking an Army funded PhD. This was either on a part-time or full-time basis. In the current AY 2020/2021 i.e. from August 20 – July 21 there are 6 Regular Officers undertaking an Army funded PhD. This is either on a part-time or full-time basis.

To note:

- These 6 officers are not the same as the 6 officers from last AY as some completed their PhD last year and others started in this AY.
- A full-time PhD typically takes 3 years to complete, and a part-time PhD can take in excess of 6 years.
- The information provided applies only to officers funded by the External Placements (Academic) Programme which is fully funded and does not include any PhD where the officer may have chosen to use their Enhanced Learning Credits as part payment of fees.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) it might be helpful to note that service personnel are not required to provide or record information about external studies undertaken whilst serving as Reserves or Regulars. Any information that is provided is voluntary and is not routinely collected.

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). 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,

Workforce 2
Army Secretariat