



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2021/04735
FOI2021/01517

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

04 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 09 February in which you requested the following information:

“Under the FOI act, could you provide details of the number of trained service personnel who achieve the lowest possible score on the Army’s physical training assessment. Could you also provide details of the number of service personnel who have taken the new physical assessments.”

You have since clarified your request on 05 March with following request:

“With regard to your letter of 5 March 2021, I would like to clarify my FOI request. I would like details of the number of soldiers, both regular and reserve, who have taken the Role Fitness Test and the numbers of those who have passed and failed. I would also like details of the number of soldiers, both regular and reserve, who have taken, passed and failed the Annual Fitness Test; I would also like the same figures for those soldiers who have taken the Soldier Condition Review if appropriate. If possible I would also like the figures broken down by, year, rank and sex. I would like figures from 2019 onwards.”

Since then, I have wrote to you on 30 April advising that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit under s.12(1) and offered the refinement of your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. You have since confirmed you wish to proceed with your request under advised refinement on 04 May with following request:

“I would like to refine my FOI request as per your suggestion of 30 April 2021.. I would like details of the number of soldiers, both regular and reserve, who have taken the Role Fitness Test and the numbers of those who have passed and failed. You may also wish to ask for details of the number of soldiers, both regular and reserve, who have taken, passed and failed the Annual Fitness Test. You may additionally ask for the same figures for those soldiers who have taken the Soldier Condition Review; all the figures broken down by year and sex from 2019 to present.”

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 in the table below. 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.

	2019	2020	2021
Annual Fitness Test	27710	21860	5040
Regular	19000	16590	4230
Failed	360	310	90
Female	100	100	20
Male	260	210	70
Passed	18640	16280	4140
Female	1710	1500	320
Male	16930	14770	3820
Reserve	8710	5270	800
Failed	270	190	20
Female	70	50	-
Male	200	140	10
Passed	8450	5080	790
Female	1160	750	100
Male	7280	4330	680
Role Fitness Test (Soldier)	5750	16770	3530
Regular	4010	12160	2750
Failed	60	160	40
Female	-	10	-
Male	50	150	40
Passed	3960	12000	2710
Female	40	80	20
Male	3920	11920	2690
Reserve	1740	4610	780
Failed	100	210	80
Female	-	10	-
Male	100	200	70
Passed	1630	4400	700
Female	30	80	10
Male	1600	4330	690
Soldier Conditioning Review	20650	52780	16250
Regular	13310	37760	14040
Unconditioned	1320	1090	180
Female	500	440	70
Male	820	640	110
Conditioned	11990	36680	13860
Female	810	2440	710
Male	11180	34240	13140
Reserve	7340	15020	2210
Unconditioned	1590	1580	110
Female	590	660	60
Male	1000	920	60
Conditioned	5750	13430	2100
Female	400	1140	170
Male	5360	12300	1930

Notes/Caveats to the table:

1. 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.
2. Figures have been rounded to 10 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

3. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
4. “-” denotes zero or rounded to zero.

Additionally, the following caveats must be noted:

- Covid-19 has significantly impacted on the ability of the British Army to conduct mandated fitness testing.
- Annual Fitness Test (AFT)/Role Fitness Testing (Soldier) (RFT(S)) testing has been suspended for the majority of 2020 and all of 2021 (as of 31 Mar 21). It was only undertaken by personnel warned for Operations, on High Readiness and other essential military activities only.
- Regular and Reserve personnel in non-deployable HQ/units are not required to undertake RFT(S) and AFT.
- Soldier Conditioning Review was introduced on 1 Apr 19 as a diagnostic tool to assess the components of physical fitness. Covid-19 has significantly impacted the use of this gym based assessment due to Force Health Protection Instruction requirements; with the Army suspending its use during periods of the pandemic.
- Ground Close Combat (GCC) personnel commenced new Role Fitness Test (Soldier) from the 1 Apr 19. The AFT ceased for this cohort at that time. Non-GCC continued to be assessed using the AFT, with the transition to RFT(S) commencing as of 1 Apr 21.
- Results are displayed by calendar year (as requested), however, the Army normally has a 12 or 6 month rolling currency for testing and assessments.

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 Policy & Secretariat