



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 17 March 2021 requesting the following information:

I would be grateful if you would provide statistics regarding the Weapons Systems Officer Branch as a male New Entrant, specifically:

1. The percentage chance of further service, year on year to LoS 40.
2. The percentage chance of promotion into each rank as a New Entrant.
3. The percentage chance of promotion into each rank having achieved the previous rank.
4. The total average length of service on promotion into each rank as a New Entrant.
5. The average total length of service and average return of service.

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.

Please be aware that the Career Projections are based on the 7 year span 2013/2014 to 2019/2020.

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). 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

Career Projection for a male New Entrant into the WSO Branch.

LoS ¹	% chance of a male New Entrant reaching LoS		% chance of a male New Entrant being promoted into rank	% chance of a male New Entrant promotion in to rank, having already achieved the preceding rank ²	Average (mean) total length of service on promotion into rank for a male New Entrant
0	99%				
1	99%				
2	99%				
3	99%	PLT OFF/FG OFF	100%		
4	99%	FLT LT	99%	99%	2 years 5 months
5	99%	SQN LDR	59%	57%	11 years 11 months
6	99%	WG CDR	22%	37%	17 years 8 months
7	99%	GP CAPT	8%	37%	23 years 6 months
8	99%	AIR CDRE +	4%	45%	27 years 0 months
9	99%				
10	88%				
11	84%				
12	78%				
13	77%				
14	74%				
15	72%				
16	65%				
17	61%				
18	55%				
19	52%				
20	49%				
21	45%				
22	41%				
23	39%				
24	36%				
25	33%				
26	32%				
27	30%				
28	27%				
29	24%				
30	22%				
31	20%				
32	17%				
33	14%				
34	11%				
35	9%				
36	5%				
37	3%				
38	2%				
39	2%				
40	1%				

Average (mean) Return of Service ³	25 years 5 months
Average (mean) Length of Service ⁴	21 years 2 months

Retention Curve

The graph shows a red line representing the retention rate. It starts at 100% for LoS 0-9, then drops to about 85% at LoS 10, 75% at LoS 15, 55% at LoS 20, 35% at LoS 25, 20% at LoS 30, 10% at LoS 35, and finally 1% at LoS 40.

¹ '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.

² 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.

³ Average (mean) Return of Service is the average length of service on outflow. It considers trained and untrained personnel within the branch and is not specific to rank or LoS.

⁴ Average (mean) Length of Service are the average length of service of personnel on strength. It considers trained and untrained personnel within the branch and is not specific to rank or LoS.

Notes:

a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data **2013/14 – 2019/20**. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **male New Entrants** into the **WSO Branch** - average career projections have been calculated.

b. Analysis Air's 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.