



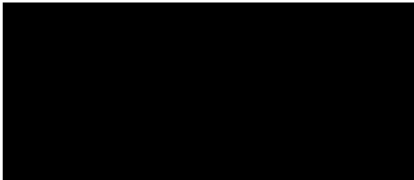
Ministry of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2021/09595

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

Website: www.army.mod.uk



27 September 2021

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 27 August in which you requested the following information:

Please could you tell me how many army personnel you qualify annually, on average, to drive HGVs?
Are these HGV driving tests conducted by DVSA examiners?
Where are figures for HGV tests taken or passed by British Army personnel available?
If they are publicly available, please refer me to them.
For context I am trying to establish how many of the HGV driving tests conducted by DVSA each year involve military personnel, and can therefore be discounted from candidates available for vocational driving in the private sector (at least in the short-to medium term)."

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 will address each question in turn below.

Q1. Please could you tell me how many army personnel you qualify annually, on average, to drive HGVs?

Table with 11 columns (Year) and 2 rows (Total Individual Service Personnel awarded Competence(s)). Data for 2020-2011: 1522, 1026, 1123, 1096, 1035, 902, 1082, 1379, 1341, 1445.

Notes/Caveats:

- 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. Total number shows the total of Army Service Personnel who hold one or more driver competences from that year.
3. These figures are for the whole Army (Regular & Reserve).

Q2. Are these HGV driving tests conducted by DVSA examiners?

No – MOD personnel are tested by Military or Civil Service qualified Defence Driver Examiner (DDE) Testing Officers who are trained and assessed to the same DVSA standards, the examiners qualification is lified at 2-yrs and Defence School of Transport (DST) Tier 3 DDE Instructors are also check-tested.

Q3. Where are figures for HGV tests taken or passed by British Army personnel available? If they are publicly available, please refer me to them.

Please note that these data is not routinely published in the public domain.

Q4. For context I am trying to establish how many of the HGV driving tests conducted by DVSA each year involve military personnel, and can therefore be discounted from candidates available for vocational driving in the private sector (at least in the short-to medium term).

The number is zero – Defence has derogations with DSA/DVSA to enable the MOD to train and test their own personnel, across all 3 Services. The exception might be those Service personnel self-funding LGV/HGV training as part of their Resettlement Training.

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