



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: **29/06/2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 01/06/2021 requesting the following information:

The average length of service for personnel leaving the Armed Forces in 2021,2020,2019,2018 and 2017 broken down by Service.

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

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held.

Average (mean) Length of Service of Trained and Trade-Trained UK Regulars on Exit (in years) by Financial Year and Service, FY17/18 - FY20/21

	FY17/18	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21
RN/RM	13	13	13	13
Army	10	11	11	12
RAF	17	16	17	18

Source: Analysis (Tri)

Notes:

1. Average Length of Service (LoS) has been calculated using entry date and rounded down. There are known problems with the entry date information extracted from JPA. If personnel have transferred from one Service to another Service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. Reserve Forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events. The resulting LoS may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service. It will invariably include time spent on untrained strength.
2. UK Regulars comprise Full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel

- (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Unless otherwise stated, includes trained and untrained personnel.
3. Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training for Royal Navy/Royal Marines, the Army (prior to 1 October 2016) and the Royal Air Force. Following the change in definition of trained strength from 1 October 2016 trained strength for the Army comprises of personnel who have completed Phase 1 training.
 4. Figures show outflow from UK Regular Forces, they include outflow to civil life and outflow to other non-serving and serving parts of the Armed Forces, excluding the UK Regular Forces. They do not include promotion from Ranks to Officers or flows between Services. Personnel flowing from the Trained to the Untrained Strengths are not captured in this table.
 5. Army would normally only provide Direct Entry (DE) Officer figures for Length of Service (LOS) queries, however the above Officer figures include both Direct (DE) and Late (LE) Entry personnel. DE and LE Officers have different career paths. The inclusion of LE in the overall figure could mean in theory that the average LOS for those Officers at rank of Lt Col and below is lower than if analysing DE only. The LOS for LE Officers has known data quality issues as the fields from which we draw our data are inconsistent and sometimes reflects the Officer only LOS and sometime both the Soldier and Officer LOS combined.

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.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Analysis (Tri-Service)