



Ministry  
of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/03188

RFI: 059/22

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: BMI RESTRICTIONS.**

We refer to your email dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

- 1. Does your force have a policy/guideline/rule in place relating to an acceptable BMI/weight/fat ratio for new applicants to your force? If so could you please provide me with a copy?**
- 2. In the year from 1.4.21 to 28-2-22 please state how many people have been accepted in total to start training to become a police officer with your force?**
- 3. How many of these new recruits identified in Question 2 had a BMI/weight/fat ratio that was greater than that stated in the policy/guidelines/rules? If so please state what the measurement was for each individual that exceeded the policy/guidelines/rules.**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

- 1. Does your force have a policy/guideline/rule in place relating to an acceptable BMI/weight/fat ratio for new applicants to your force? If so could you please provide me with a copy?**

Yes, the BMI standard is 30 or under, 19 or over – where a candidate does not meet this standard the DR also takes in to account hip to waist ratios and body fat % - more info can be found on the website here:

<https://www.mod.police.uk/medical-standards/>

**2. In the year from 1.4.21 to 28-2-22 please state how many people have been accepted in total to start training to become a police officer with your force?**

Between 01/04/21 and 28/02/22 we have hired 244 officers (includes new entrants from other police forces (NEOF)s and New Recruits) and the NEOF course that starts on 14th March.

**3. How many of these new recruits identified in Question 2 had a BMI/weight/fat ratio that was greater than that stated in the policy/guidelines/rules? If so please state what the measurement was for each individual that exceeded the policy/guidelines/rules.**

This information is not held by the Force, our third party provider are responsible for making the decision on medical suitability – and where a candidate is deemed not suitable for the role, we are merely passed that decision and not the reasons for it as it is medical in confidence.

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

**MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office**