



Ministry
of Defence

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22 January 2018

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 7 December 2017 in which you requested the following information:

Could you please provide me with the following information regarding the Army's Potential Officer Development Course/Programme (PODC/PODP).

1. *For each year from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016 how many soldiers attended the PODC/PODP?*
2. *Of these, how many attended the Army Officer selection Board (AOSB) Main Board?*
3. *Of those who attended AOSB, how many were selected for commissioning?*

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

I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request, but 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 detailed below.

The number of soldiers who attended the Potential Officer Development Programme (PODP) in Financial Year's 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 is set out in the table below:

FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16
35	50	60

Of these, the number of soldiers who went on to attend the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) in Financial Year's 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 is set out in the table below:

FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16
35	45	60

Of those, the number of soldiers selected for commissioning in Financial Year's 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 is set out in the table below:

FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16
25	30	40

Please note that in the above three tables, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users. These figures are single service estimates only and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

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,


Army Secretariat