



Ministry
of Defence

Head of Analysis Air
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Ref: FOI2021/01104

[REDACTED]

23 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2022 requesting the following information:

Trade: RAF Weapons Support Officer (Navigator) Officer
Rank attained: Squadron Leader
Length of service: 20 years

I wonder if you are able to provide me with pertinent statistics in this matter, given the above details using a 7- year span of data from 2013/14 to 2020/21 (if not available then 2012/13 to 2019/20). In particular I am interested in figures relating to:

- Average and median length of service.
- % chance of promotion into rank from Sqn Ldr through to Gp Capt
- % chance of promotion into rank from Sqn Ldr through to Gp Capt, having already achieved the previous rank.
- Average total length of reckonable service on promotion into rank from Sqn Ldr to Gp Capt.
- % chance, year on year, of serving through to LoS 40.

It would be most useful if it were at all possible for you to provide the same data for a new entrant through to Gp Capt in this trade, if within your budget limitations.

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) file attached to the email.

Please also be aware that the 7 year span of data covers 2014/15 – 2020/21 and **not** 2013/14 – 2020/21 as this would include eight years of data.

Please also note that the tool used for compensation cases such as this, does not differentiate between WSOs of different specialisations, and the figures provided have been calculated by considering all WSOs with similar characteristics to those requested, **not** just those within the Navigation specialisation.

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.

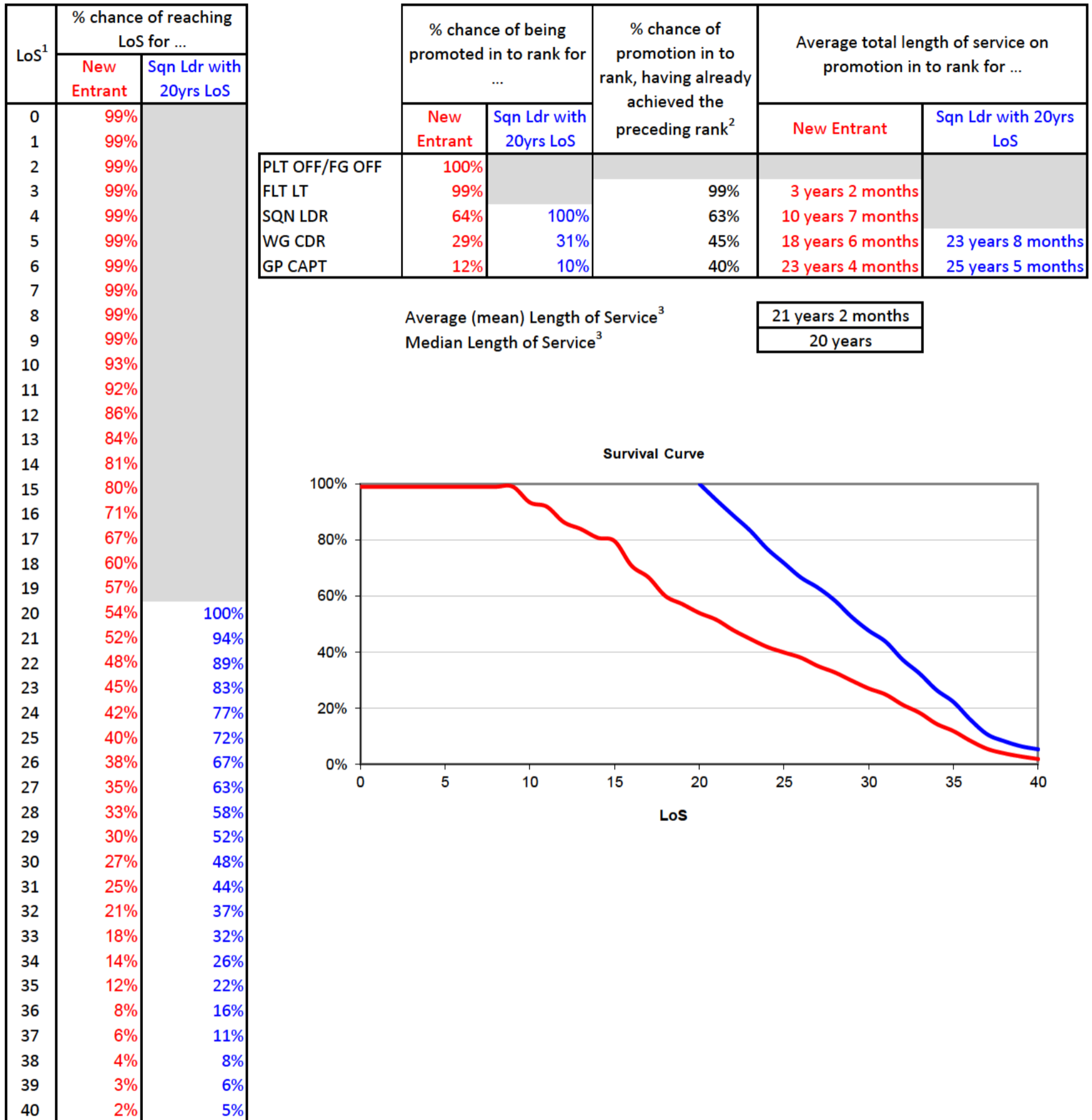
If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal 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 New Entrant & Squadron Leader with 20 years length of service in the Weapons Systems Officer branch.



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) & Median Length of Service are the average length of service of personnel on strength. It considers trained and untrained personnel within the branch.

Notes:

- a. These data are based on the seven year span of actual data 2014/15 – 2020/21. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics - **New Entrants** and **Sqn Ldrs with 20 yrs LoS** in the **WSO** branch - average career projections have been calculated.
- b. Analysis Airs' 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.