



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2022/09959

[Redacted]

Date: 11th October 2022

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 24th August 2022 requesting the following information:

“The below information is kindly requested for information on the following 3 organisations only. Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment.

- 1. Annual applications numbers for Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment**
- 2. Number of candidates who attend phase 1 training**
- 3. Percentage success rate of phase 1 and phase 2 training**
- 4. Average age to successfully complete phase 1**
- 5. Overall trained strength in the RAF Regiment/Parachute Regiment/Royal Marines**
- 6. Yearly numbers of ranks who depart the RAF Regiment/Parachute Regiment/Royal Marines**
- 7. Average cost to train an individual in phase 1 and phase 2”**

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.

1. Number of applications to the Regular Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment by financial year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Royal Marines	..	6 980	7 920	9 550	4 840
Officers	..	1 250	1 400	1 590	900
Other Ranks	..	5 740	6 520	7 960	3 930
Parachute Regiment	2 020	3 160	2 520	2 270	1 660
Officers	*	*	*	*	*
Other Ranks	2 020	3 160	2 520	2 270	1 660
RAF Regiment	1 270	2 680	2 980	2 740	1 490
Officers	190	590	650	420	270
Other Ranks	1 080	2 090	2 320	2 330	1 210

Source:

- RN/RM: Analysis (Navy)
- Army: Capita Reporting and Information Officer and XO Recruiting Group
- RAF: RAF Recruitment and Selection (first 2 financial years) and Analysis Air (final 3 financial years)

2. Number of Regular personnel entering Phase 1 training for the Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment by financial year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Royal Marines	790	800	950	1 120	1 160
Officers	60	70	60	80	60
Other Ranks	730	730	890	1 040	1 100
Parachute Regiment	320	370	370	390	320
Officers	*	*	*	*	*
Other Ranks	320	370	370	390	320
RAF Regiment	250	280	390	260	220
Officers	40	40	30	20	10
Other Ranks	210	240	360	240	210

Source:

- RN/RM: RN/RM Training Pipeline Manager
- Army: Analysis (Army)
- RAF: Analysis (Air)

3. Percentage success rate of Phase1 and Phase 2 training for the Regular Royal Marine, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment personnel

3a. Percentage pass rate of Phase 1 and Phase 2 training for Regular Royal Marine and RAF Regiment personnel by financial year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Royal Marines					
Phase 1 Training					
Officers	..	..	..	..	..
Other Ranks	..	..	..	..	..
Phase 2 Training					
Officers	58%	71%	66%	50%	82%
Other Ranks	51%	63%	39%	37%	44%
RAF Regiment					
Phase 1 Training					
Officers	97%	89%	100%	97%	100%
Other Ranks	87%	84%	89%	91%	86%
Phase 2 Training					
Officers	69%	87%	100%	85%	-
Other Ranks	72%	65%	61%	73%	67%

3b. Percentage success rate of recruit training for the Parachute Regiment

For training years 19/20, 20/21 and 21/22, an average of 395 prospective Paras were tagged as Basic Training Starts. Of the whole population, within the identified time period, 62.6% of prospective Paras successfully complete Phase 1 training, whilst 31.5% are discharged. Of all prospective paras who commence training, 47% successfully complete Phase 2 ITT, and move to Para Regts. Discharges is low for Para ITT, at 4%. The residual number, who do not successfully complete Para Phase 2, but can nonetheless be gainfully employed elsewhere in the Army, are passed on to other Cap Badges.

Source:

- RN/RM: RN/RM Training Pipeline Manager
- Army: ARITC
- RAF: 22 Training Group

4. Average age (years) on completion of Phase 1 training for the Regular Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment by financial year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Royal Marines					
Officers	..	24	24	24	24
Other Ranks	..	21	21	21	22
Parachute Regiment					
Officers	25	24	24	24	24
Other Ranks	20	20	21	20	20
RAF Regiment					
Officers	29	30	28	30	25
Other Ranks	21	21	21	22	21

Source:

- RN/RM: Analysis (Navy)
- Army: Analysis (Army)
- RAF: 22 Training Group

5. Trained (RN/RM & RAF) and Trade Trained (Army) Regular Strength of the Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment as at 1 July 2018-2022

	01-Jul-18	01-Jul-19	01-Jul-20	01-Jul-21	01-Jul-22
Royal Marines	6 310	6 070	5 850	5 890	5 820
Officers	740	750	760	760	770
Other Ranks	5 570	5 320	5 090	5 130	5 050
Parachute Regiment	1 910	1 890	1 920	1 950	1 890
Officers	250	260	260	280	280
Other Ranks	1 660	1 630	1 660	1 670	1 610
RAF Regiment	1 850	1 790	1 820	1 840	1 820
Officers	330	340	340	340	330
Other Ranks	1 520	1 450	1 480	1 500	1 490

Source:

- RN/RM: Analysis (Navy)
- Army: Analysis (Army)
- RAF: Analysis (Air)

6. Trained (RN/RM & RAF) and Trade Trained Regular Outflow from the Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment

12 months ending:	30-Jun-18	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-20	30-Jun-21	30-Jun-22
Royal Marines	670	620	510	390	500
Officers	60	40	40	40	50
Other Ranks	610	590	470	350	450
Parachute Regiment	220	180	140	120	190
Officers	20	20	20	20	20
Other Ranks	200	160	120	110	170
RAF Regiment	140	160	130	110	160
Officers	20	20	20	20	20
Other Ranks	120	140	110	90	140

Source:

- RN/RM: Analysis (Navy)
- Army: Analysis (Army)
- RAF: Analysis (Air)

7. Average cost to train an individual in Phase 1 and Phase 2

7a. Average cost (£) attributable to individual Royal Marines Officers and Other Ranks successfully completing Phase 1 and Phase 2 Training combined by financial year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Officers	276 260	285 830	289 520	293 810	300 080
Phase 1 Training	163 390	169 210	171 600	174 280	177 990
Phase 2 Training	112 860	116 630	117 920	119 540	122 090
Other Ranks	126 490	132 300	133 690	145 590	148 460
Recruit Orientation Phase	..	..	..	9 600	9 600
Phase 1 Training	65 670	68 660	69 400	70 540	72 020
Phase 2 Training	60 820	63 640	64 290	65 450	66 830

7b. Average cost (£) of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Training for the Parachute Regiment by financial year (FY)

Phase of Training	FY	Total cost of Successful Trainees (£)
Phase 1/Phase 2 Combined	2017/18	98 520
Phase 1/Phase 2 Combined	2018/19	93 140
Phase 1/Phase 2 Combined	2019/20	63 100
Phase 1	2020/21	29 160
Phase 2		38 160
Phase 1	2021/22	56 050
Phase 2		37 340

7c. Average cost (£) of Phase 1 Training for the RAF Regiment by financial year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Officers	72 120	75 130	75 410	75 010	73 250
Other Ranks	23 630	23 080	19 900	20 740	20 580

Source:

- RN/RM: Headquarters Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) Lympstone
- Army: ARITC
- RAF: 22 Group and Air Director of Resources Finance Costing

Notes and caveats:

1. Army figures are for the Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. Army figures are for all Parachute Regiment personnel regardless of where they may be serving.
3. Army figures exclude Officers with a Paid Rank of Colonel and above, regardless of antecedent Arm/Service. Figures exclude Other Ranks serving in Senior Soldier Continuity Posts, regardless of antecedent Arm/Service.
4. In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
5. The financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March.

6. Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training for Royal Navy/Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force and the Army prior to 1 October 2016. Following the change in definition of trained strength for Army from 1 October 2016, for the Army, trained strength comprise of personnel who have completed Phase 1 training. Trade Trained Strength comprises Army personnel who have completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training.
7. Untrained strength comprises military personnel who have yet to complete Phase 2 training for Royal Navy/Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force and the Army prior to 1 October 2016. Following the change in definition of Army trained strength from 1 October 2016, untrained strength for the Army comprises of personnel who have yet to complete Phase 1 training.
8. RAF figures are for the Regular RAF only and therefore excludes the Full Time Reserve Service, Reserve Service and Mobilised Reservists
9. Symbol definitions:
 - a. '**' – not applicable
 - b. '..' – not available
 - c. '-' – zero

Question 1

10. Data regarding applications to the RN/RM and RAF after 31 December 2021 was unavailable due to experiencing technical issues whilst migrating application data to a new system, the full 12-month time series is incomplete and requires extensive quality control and other validation. Therefore, the 2021/22 financial year figures for RN/RM and RAF only includes Applications made up to 31 December 2021.
11. RN/RM and RAF application data is taken from the Defence Recruiting System (DRS). Between the introduction of DRS in November 2017 and 1 August 2019 some applications were not recorded on DRS; these applications are not included in the statistics as they cannot be verified and there is a risk of double counting.
12. RN/RM figures include Applications where personnel have indicated a career preference of Royal Marines Other Ranks. Applicant career preference are based on their declared career choice at the time of Application. Applicants may change their career choice throughout the process.
13. Number of applications to the RN/RM and RAF counts each application once, however candidates can make more than one application; therefore, some candidates could be counted twice.
14. Army figures reflect all candidates who applied in a specific recruiting year, who included Para as one of their Job Choices. As Officers do not need a Job Choice, no data has been provided for Officers.
15. Army figures are single Service estimates based on management information which is not gathered for statistical purposes or subject to the same level of scrutiny as official statistics

produced by Defence Statistics. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.

16. RAF figures only include applicants processed via the digital recruitment system (DRS), where the initial career interest is for the Regular service, and for the RAF Regiment. Applicants can change their preference throughout the application process.
17. The DRS system closed to RAF applications on 3 December 2021, the new system for applications was not available during December 2021.

Question 2

18. RN/RM figures should be considered a single service estimate and will not align with published untrained intake figures.
19. Army figures are for Other Ranks entering Phase 1 Training only. All Officers who attend Officer Designate training attend Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for Phase 1 Training and are not assigned an Arm/Service until they reach the end of their course. These figures exclude any personnel who enter the Parachute Regiment directly into Phase 2 Training or into Trade Trained Strength.
20. Army figures exclude personnel entering the Parachute Regiment from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines or Royal Air Force.
21. RAF figures include Intake into Untrained strength of Regular RAF Regiment Officers and Regiment Gunners.

Question 3

22. RN/RM and Army figures should be considered a single service estimate and will not align with published figures.
23. RN/RM pass rates are only held for Phase 2 training.

Question 4

24. For RN/RM, average age on completion of Phase 1 Training is calculated using personnel who have transitioned out of a P1 trainee class. This flow as well as Trainee Class indicators are not available prior to April 2018.
25. For RN/RM and RAF, Average Age is calculated using Mean Age.

Question 6

26. Figures exclude personnel leaving the Regular Royal Marines, Parachute Regiment and RAF Regiment to enter another service and also excludes personnel who leave their regiment and remain in their respective service (for example, excludes personnel who

leave the Parachute Regiment but remain in the Regular Army).

Question 7

27. Although Royal Marine Phase 1 and Phase 2 costs have been split, advice has been provided by the Business Analyst at CTCRM that the Phase 1 and 2 split is somewhat artificial as the courses are combined. Over the years, the week of training where phase 1 ends and phase 2 commences has changed and therefore it is preferable to quote a combined figure; for that reason, combined totals have been provided.
28. Information for the Army is for Other Ranks (ORs) only.
29. Army cost information was previously captured and managed with Phase 1 and Phase 2 training combined. After financial year 2019/20, Phase 1 and Phase 2 training information was captured separately.
30. Army figures are single Service estimates. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.
31. RAF costs include the Adventurous Training modules.
32. While there is underlying inflation applied to the RAF figures, the cost per trainee rises and falls mainly as a result of differences in;
 - a. Throughput: The fixed elements of the costs are divided by a varying number of trainees, so the cost per trainee will then vary; more trainees => lower cost per trainee.
 - b. Wastage rates: the costs of trainees who do not complete a course are added to those who do complete it.
33. With regards to the cost of RAF Regiment Phase 2 training, please be advised that under FOIA a Public Authority is not required to create new information to respond to requests. The MOD holds data that could be used to produce information to answer the request. However, to produce the information based on this data would require significant data manipulation including complex analysis and sophisticated judgement to the extent that it can be considered 'new' information which is not currently held.

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)