



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2022/12792

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9 November 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 November 2022 in which you requested the following information:

"I wish to make a freedom of information request regarding the Royal Marines. Could you please provide:

- a) The average and median length of service to discharge for adult entry for the Royal Marines.
- b) The average length of service from entry at promotion to each non-commissioned rank
- c) The average length of service in the rank below on promotion for each non-commissioned rank.

If you need clarification on any of these points please revert"

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and can be found at Annex A to this letter.

The analysis in Table 2 has been provided for a New Entrant Royal Marines. New Entrant includes personnel who have joined the Royal Marines at the rank of OR-2 within the previous 12 months as at 1 April each year. The data provided is produced using historic data from 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2022. The use of seven years data reduces fluctuations caused by one-off factors and also covers a wider period of the economic cycle which may influence outflow. By considering a cohort of individuals with the similar characteristics

average career projections have been calculated. Information has been supplied; however, caution should be applied when interpreting analysis due to spurious results that have been observed within the data and population. Spurious results can be created from calculations using small populations, interactions between small populations and the methodology used in the analysis. As the analysis is derived from historic data it will reflect policy measures over that time-period and therefore may not be reflective of behaviour under current or future policy conditions. Caution should be taken when interpreting the analysis for higher ranks and longer lengths of service as the population is smaller and therefore may not be reflective of behaviour under current or future policy conditions.

The career forecast is not based on the actual experience of any one individual, but rather is based on historical behaviour of individuals with similar characteristics (in terms of Arm/Service, gender, length of service and rank). The data in these tables cover periods when policy measures which influence career have been applied, for example, structural changes within a Branch/Service.

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.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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

Table 1. Average Length of Service on Exit for Royal Marine Ratings and Officers between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022

	Length of Service
Median	9 years 0 months
Mean	12 years 1 months

Source: Analysis(Navy)

1. Expected LOS is calculated by using the averages of historic data and represents full years of completed service.
2. Exiting denotes anything that results in an ending of Regular service, e.g. time expiry, voluntary outflow, death etc.

Table 2. The expected LOS in rank, and expected LOS on promotion to rank in years, for a New Entrant Royal Marine Other Ranks

Rank		Expected LOS in Rank	Expected LOS on Promotion to the Rank
OR-2	Marine	6.6	N/A
OR-4	Corporal	5.4	8.0
OR-6	Sergeant	5.3	13.0
OR-7	Colour Sergeant	4.5	18.0
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	4.7	21.2
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	7.0	24.3

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. 'Expected LOS in rank' includes all exits from that rank, for example promotion to the next rank or exiting the Service.
2. N/A is present because you cannot be promoted to OR-2.