



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2023/12376

RFI: 223/23

Date: 16 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DETAILS OF THE FIREARMS CRITERIA AT THE MOD POLICE AND SERGEANT POSITIONS

We refer to your email dated 11 September 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 17 October 2023. We apologise again for the delay in responding to you.

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.Details of the firearms criteria at the Ministry of Defence.

2.Data in relation to the number of sergeant positions within the Ministry of Defence which require the post holder to hold an authorised firearms officer status.

3.Information in relation to the success rate of those who passed the sergeants examination being promoted and the average time taken for such an appointment if successful.

The Ministry of Defence Police have completed a search based on your request and we do hold information in scope of your request as follows:

1.Details of the firearms criteria at the Ministry of Defence.

The MDP comply with the College of Policing APP (Authorised Professional Practice) for Armed Policing. Please see the following link for the criteria for the deployment of AFOs.

[Deployment of authorised firearms officers \(AFOs\) | College of Policing](#)

MDP AFOs undertake armed protective security and response duties, within MOD establishments. This includes uniformed officers patrolling on foot and in liveried or non-

liveried vehicles. Authority will also extend outside MOD establishments for security patrols and deployment to a spontaneous firearms incident.

2.Data in relation to the number of sergeant positions within the Ministry of Defence which require the post holder to hold an authorised firearms officer status.

All new joiners (student officers and transferees) at Police Constable (PS) and Police Sergeant (PS) ranks are required, as a condition of service, to become Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs). The total number of posts requiring AFO capability is currently assessed as 2,510, which is a mixture of PC and PS ranks.

3.Information in relation to the success rate of those who passed the sergeants examination being promoted and the average time taken for such an appointment if successful.

As of October 2023, 164 officers have obtained Part 1 of the Sergeants Examination and of those, 65 have also obtained Part 2.

74.29% of officers who passed Part 2 in 2020 have been promoted. Promotions occurred within 1 year.

100% of officers who passed Part 2 in 2022 have been promoted. Promotions occurred within 16 months.

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