



Ministry
of Defence



FOI2020/13583

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12 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 December 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'Could you please provide the following information in relation to the position of 'Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist' within the Royal Navy. The request is made for the annual statistics of the years 2014 to 2019.

17. Number of serving Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists?
18. Number of personnel who left positions as Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists?
19. How many Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists were promoted to leading hand and the average time period from when first installed as a Specialist?
20. How many Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists were promoted to a Petty Officer and the average time period from when first installed as a Specialist?
21. How many Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists were promoted to Chief Petty Officer and the average time period from when first installed as a Specialist?
22. How many Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists were promoted to Warrant Officer and the average time period from when first installed as a Specialist?
23. How many Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists became a Commissioned Officer and the average time period from when first installed as a Specialist?
24. How many Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists became a Captain and the average time period from when first installed as a Specialist?

25. How many of those who applied to be a Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist applied for or were trained for a different position within the Royal Navy? What were the roles and numbers for those roles?

And in which you provided the following clarification:

In relation to questions 19 to 24:

Can you please provide the average time period for both scenarios. That is from (1) when an individual joined the Royal Navy as a Hydrography and Meteorology (HM) Specialist and (2) From completion of training as a Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist.

In relation to question 25:

I would like to be provided with the data relating to those who drop out of the recruitment / training process along the way. Do they apply and train elsewhere in a different specialisation within the Royal Navy?

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

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

With regard to question 24, of those Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist Other Ranks promoted to Officer for the period 2014 to 2019, none have made it to the rank of Captain. Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, you may find it helpful note that the average Length of Service (LOS) on Substantive Rank Promotion to Captain for all RN Regulars (including both those promoted from the Other Ranks and direct entrants) promoted between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2019 was 25 years and 11 months.

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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

ANNEX A
to FOI2020/13583
dated 12 January 2021

Table 1. Strength of RN Trained Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists, as at 1 April 2014 - 2019

Year	Total
2014	201
2015	206
2016	215
2017	223
2018	227
2019	221

Source: Analysis (Navy)

Table 2. Outflow from Trained RN Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2019, by calendar year

Year	Total
2014	17
2015	14
2016	16
2017	15
2018	23
2019	13

Source: Analysis (Navy)

Table 3. Number and Average Length of Service (LOS) on Substantive Rank Promotion to Leading Hand (OR-4) for RN Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2019, by calendar year

Year	Number of Promotions	Length of Service	LOS since completion of training
2014	11	6 years and 10 months	6 years and 3 months
2015	10	6 years and 8 months	6 years and 1 months
2016	16	6 years and 4 months	5 years and 9 months
2017	6	6 years and 4 months	5 years and 3 months
2018	14	5 years and 8 months	5 years and 3 months
2019	9	5 years and 7 months	5 years and 1 months
Total	66	6 years and 3 months	5 years and 7 months

Source: Analysis (Navy)

Table 4. Number and Average Length of Service (LOS) on Substantive Rank Promotion to Petty Officer (OR-6) for RN Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2019, by calendar year

Year	Number of Promotions	Length of Service	LOS since completion of training
2014	8	9 years and 6 months	8 years and 11 months
2015	5	10 years and 11 months	10 years and 3 months
2016	~	*	*
2017	6	12 years and 4 months	11 years and 8 months
2018	7	12 years and 5 months	11 years and 9 months
2019	6	10 years and 3 months	9 years and 9 months
Total	35	10 years and 11 months	10 years and 4 months

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Total has been rounded to the nearest 5 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures fewer than 5 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.
2. "*" represents a population smaller than 5 personnel. For these populations an average has not been provided as this could be disclosive and it would be inappropriate.

Table 5. Number and Average Length of Service (LOS) on Substantive Rank Promotion to Chief Petty Officer (OR-7) for RN Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2019, by calendar year

Year	Number of Promotions	Length of Service	LOS since completion of training
2014	7	19 years and 4 months	18 years and 11 months
2015	~	*	*
2016	~	*	*
2017	~	*	*
2018	~	*	*
2019	~	*	*
Total	23	17 years and 3 months	16 years and 9 months

1. Figures fewer than 5 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.
2. "*" represents a population smaller than 5 personnel. For these populations an average has not been provided as this could be disclosive and it would be inappropriate.

Table 6. Number and Average Length of Service (LOS) on Substantive Rank Promotion to Warrant Officer 1 (OR-9) for RN Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2019, by calendar year

Year	Number of Promotions	Length of Service	LOS since completion of training
2014	-	-	-
2015	~	*	*
2016	~	*	*
2017	~	*	*
2018	~	*	*
2019	~	*	*
Total	5	26 years and 5 months	25 years and 9 months

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Total has been rounded to the nearest 5 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures fewer than 5 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.
2. '*' represents a population smaller than 5 personnel. For these populations an average has not been provided as this could be disclosive and it would be inappropriate.

Table 7. Number and Average Length of Service (LOS) on Promotion to Commissioned Officer for RN Regular Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2019, by calendar year

Year	Number of Promotions	Length of Service	LOS since completion of training
2014	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-
2016	~	*	*
2017	~	*	*
2018	~	*	*
2019	~	*	*
Total	9	7 years and 6 months	7 years and 1 months

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Figures fewer than 5 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.
2. '*' represents a population smaller than 5 personnel. For these populations an average has not been provided as this could be disclosive and it would be inappropriate.

Notes:

Averages provided are the mean.

Length of service is calculated as full months completed from entry.

For personnel who have had more than one period of service, length of service may include time prior to their most recent period of service as a RN Regular. For personnel promoted to Officer, length of service may also include time spent in the Other Ranks.

Length of service from completion of training is calculated as full months completed from the date personnel joined the trained strength. For personnel who are trained on entry, length of service from completion of training is calculated as full months completed from entry.

Caution should be exercised with regards to interpretation of these statistics. Some of the populations are small, therefore the averages may be volatile and susceptible to fluctuations. Where there is a small number of personnel and a large range in length of service between the records the average can appear skewed. Averages are constructed from personnel covering a number of contracts/engagements and do not relate to the terms and conditions associated with any particular contract.

Table 8. Applications to Warfare Specialist (Hydrography and Meteorology) and the number who changed job role:

	2018/2019	2019/2020	1 Apr – 31 Dec 2020
Applications for WS(HM)	100	100	120
Of which: Current or final job role ¹ :			
WS(HM)	90	90	110
Hydrography & Meteorology Officer	-	~	~
Other	10	10	10

Source: Captain Naval Recruiting

1. This is the current job role for candidates still active in the recruiting process, or the last job role recorded for those who have exited the process (ie. Entered Service, withdrawn application, rejected).
2. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid bias. Totals are rounded separately and therefore may not equal the sum of their parts.
3. Numbers of 5 or fewer are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.

Table 9. Transfers from Regular Warfare Specialist (Hydrography and Meteorology)

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Transfers to Communications Specialist	-	~	~

Source: Navy Training Pipeline Management

1. Numbers fewer than 5 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.