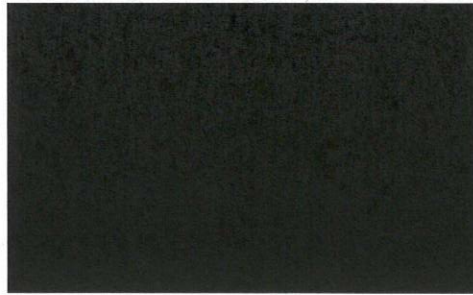




Ministry
of Defence



FOI2020/11393

E-mail: Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk



19 November 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Further to our letter of 9 November 2020, I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request for 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.

1. How many applications were received for the position of Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist?
2. How many applicants satisfied the basic eligibility criteria and were sent an online application form?
3. How many applicants passed the Naval Service Recruitment Test (NSRT)?
4. How many applicants passed the formal interview process?
5. How many applicants passed the medical and eye tests?
6. How many applicants passed the Pre-Joint Fitness Test (PJFT) and the Pre-Royal Navy Course (PRNC)?
7. How many applicants were offered a place at HMS Raleigh to learn basic military skills?
8. How many applicants attended basic training at HMS Raleigh?

9. How many applicants passed basic training at HMS Raleigh?
10. How many applicants were offered Specialist training at HMS Drake in Devonport?
11. How many applicants attended Specialist training at HMS Drake?
12. How many applicants passed Specialist training at HMS Drake?
13. How many applicants were finally offered positions as a Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist?
14. How many applicants accepted positions as Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists?
15. What was the average time period from first application to being installed as a Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist?
16. Average length of employment of a Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist?

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

As explained in our interim response, a search was completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and it was confirmed that information in scope of your request was held by the Department. However, in the same correspondence, it was also explained that it was considered that some of the information you were seeking may fall within the scope of the qualified exemption under Section 26 (Defence) of the FOI Act. After further consideration of the information, it has been determined that this exemption no longer applies to your request.

Following this decision, the information to answer parts one to six of your request can be found in Table One at Annex A to this letter. Please note that information to answer part two of your request has been moved to the top of the table so that the data follows in logical order – a candidate has to be sent a link to the online application first before they can complete it.

With regard to part seven of your request, this information is not recorded in such a way that makes identifying the data possible. As consequence, this information is considered not to be held by the Department.

In response to parts eight to fourteen, this information can be found in Table Two at Annex A to this letter. Please be advised that no comparison should be made between the figures as the take-up and output of training could run over two training years.

In response to part fifteen of your request, all HM Ratings complete 12 weeks of Phase One training. The length of Phase Two training differs for both Hydrographers(H) and Meteorologists(M). The HM(M) cadre undertake Phase Two training over a 10-week period and the HM(H) cadre undertake Phase Two training over a period of 14 weeks.

In regard to part sixteen of your request, information on the average length of employment of a HM Specialist can be found at Table Three at Annex A to this letter.

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 Two – Attendance at Basic and Specialist Training 2014-2019:

Training Year	Phase 1		Phase 2	
	Take Up	Output	Take Up	Trained Strength
	Q8	Q9	Q 10/11	Q12/13/14
WS(HM)				
14/15	23	19	22	22
15/16	23	34	27	25
16/17	26	14	25	24
17/18	25	32	37	24
18/19	22	20	21	26
19/20	31	26	30	23

Source: Navy Training Pipeline

Table Three - Average Length of Service on Exit from the Trained Regular Royal Navy for Hydrography and Meteorology Specialist personnel:

LOS on Exit	7 years 8 months
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Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. The average provided is the median length of service for Trained Hydrography and Meteorology Specialists who left the Regular Royal Navy between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2019.
2. The median was selected because it reduces the impact of extreme values when compared to the mean, for example very long lengths of service would not skew the median but would skew the mean.
3. A median of 7 years 8 months means that half of the personnel who left between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2019 had a Length of Service on exit of less than 7 years 8 months, while the other half will have served more than 7 years 8 months.
4. 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 Regular RN Rating.
5. Personnel who left the Regular Royal Navy prior to becoming trained are not included in this analysis.

