



Ministry  
of Defence



FOI2021/04056

E-mail: [NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk)



17 May 2021

Dear ,

Release of Information

Further to our correspondence of 14 May 2021, I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request for the following information:

'Dear Royal Navy,  
I would be grateful if you would address the following questions:

- 1) Based on the most recent intakes - say 2017, 2018 and 2019 - what percentage of candidates are accepted as officers in the Royal Navy?
- 2) Based on the latest statistical data, what is the average length of service of Royal Navy Officers by gender?
- 3) Based on the latest statistical data, what is the average length of service of Royal Navy Logistics Officers (General Service) by gender?'

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In response to part one of your request, it is not possible to provide a definitive percentage of applicants who are accepted into training in any one year, as there will always be a proportion of applicants that remain active into the following recruiting year. However, I can advise that from the applications received from financial year 2016/17, between 6-8% of applicants for Royal Navy Officer roles become entrants, and 5-7% for Royal Marines Officers.

Please be advised that these figures are a single service estimate and have not been validated by Analysis (Navy). Figures may not be reflective of Official Statistics.

Information to answer parts two and three of your request can be found 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](mailto: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

**Average Length of Service (LOS) on Outflow for Trained Regular Royal Navy/Royal Marine Officers, by gender**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Officers</b>	<b>19 years 5 months</b>	<b>15 years 6 months</b>	<b>18 years 6 months</b>
Logistics General Service	23 years 5 months	16 years 4 months	20 years 6 months

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. The average provided is the median length of service for Trained Regular RN/RM Officers who left between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2020.
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 18 years 6 months means that half of the personnel who left between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2020 had a Length of Service on exit of less than 18 years 6 months, while the other half will have served more than 18 years 6 months.
4. As the analysis is derived from historic data it will reflect policy measures over this time period and therefore may not be reflective of behaviour under current or future policy conditions.
5. Length of service has been calculated using entry date. There are known problems with the entry date information extracted from JPA which is supposed to reflect their 'current entry date' but if personnel have transferred to their current Service from another Service, served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events. The resulting LoS may reflect their current period of service, include previous service, or it may be the time that has elapsed since they first joined the Armed Forces, irrespective of any break in service.

