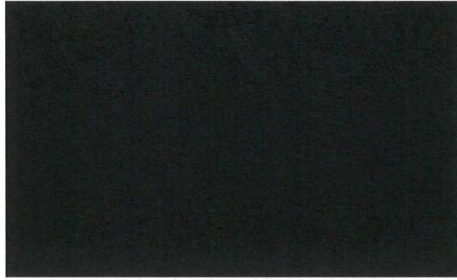




Ministry  
of Defence



FOI2020/08146

E-mail: [Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk)



11 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 July 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information on the RN GS Warfare Officer Branch, specifically:

- What are the chances of survival (chances of completing x years service from a new entry to age 55)?
- What are the chances of promotion to each rank, from S/Lt to Capt RN?
- What is the average time taken to achieve promotion to each rank from S/Lt to Capt RN
- What is the percentage chance of a Lt Cdr, Cdr and Capt being given command of a surface ship.
- What is the percentage change of a Warfare Officer of the rank of Lt and above being discharged for medical, administrative or disciplinary reasons.'

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 information in scope of your request is held. In response to parts one, two and three of your request, this information can be found detailed within Annex A to this letter.

The analysis in Tables 1, 2 and 3 has been provided for a New Entrant Royal Navy Warfare General Service Officer. New Entrant includes personnel who have joined the Royal Navy at the rank of OF-1 within the previous 12 months as at 1 April each year. The data provided for the chances of survival and chances of promotion are produced using historic data from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2020.

With regard to part four of your request, you may find it useful to note that the entire Selection process for Command is based on merit. The 'chance' of Command is therefore entirely dependent upon an individual. Whereby one person may have a 'very good chance' due to being extremely competent and viewed in high regard, another may be performing less well and effectively have a 'zero chance'. As such, the Department holds no information to provide you with an answer to satisfy this part of your request.

With regard to part five of your request, to be discharged for medical, administrative or disciplinary reasons is again entirely dependent on an individual. Therefore, the Department holds no information to provide you with an answer to satisfy this part of your request.

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). 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 FOI2020/08146**  
**dated 11 August 2020**

**Table 1. The chance a New Entrant Royal Navy Warfare General Service Officer will achieve each Length of Service (LOS) before exiting:**

Length of Service (Years)	Chance of Completing length of service
0	95%
1	91%
2	84%
3	79%
4	78%
5	74%
6	70%
7	67%
8	63%
9	59%
10	55%
11	51%
12	49%
13	48%
14	46%
15	46%
16	41%
17	38%
18	36%
19	33%
20	32%
21	31%
22	30%
23	28%
24	26%
25	26%
26	24%
27	22%
28	21%
29	20%
30	18%
31	16%
32	14%
33	12%
34	10%
35	8%
36	6%
37	4%
38	3%
39	2%
40	1%

Source: Defence Statistics (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. Chance of promotion for a Royal Navy Warfare General Service Officer New Entrant:**

Rank		Chance of Promotion to Rank
OF-2	Lieutenant	77%
OF-3	Lt. Commander	46%
OF-4	Commander	19%
OF-5	Captain	9%

Source: Defence Statistics (Navy)

**Table 3. The expected LOS in rank, and expected LOS on promotion to rank in years, for a New Entrant Royal Navy Warfare General Service Officer:**

Rank		Expected LOS in Rank	Expected LOS on promotion to the rank
OF-1	Sub. Lieutenant	3.3	N/A
OF-2	Lieutenant	7.4	3.7
OF-3	Lt. Commander	9.1	11.9
OF-4	Commander	7.8	20.4
OF-5	Captain	5.5	26

Source: Defence Statistics (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 OF-1.