



Ministry  
of Defence



FOI2021/02417

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18 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 February 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'Could you please provide the following information for the Royal Marine Band Service:

1. Length of Service statistics (percentage chance of further service) for a new entrant
2. Promotion statistics - if possible could include the following information:
  - Chance of promotion from the rate of Marine/Musician
  - Chance of further promotion from each subsequent rate
  - Expected length of service in rate
  - Expected length of service on promotion to rate
3. Strength of the Royal Marine Band Service by rank
4. Number of Royal Marine Band Service personnel currently serving on an Engagement Stage 3 by rank
5. Age profile of the Royal Marine Band Service'

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 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.

The analysis in Tables 1, 2 and 3 has been provided for a New Entrant Royal Marine Band Service Other Rank. New Entrant includes personnel who have joined the Royal Marines at the rank of OR-2 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. The use of seven years data reduces fluctuations caused by one-off factors and also covers a wider period of the economic cycle which may influence outflow. Information has been supplied; however, caution should be applied when interpreting analysis due to spurious results that have been observed within the data and population. Spurious results can be created from calculations using small populations, interactions between small populations and the methodology used in the analysis. As the analysis is derived from historic data it will reflect policy measures over that time period and therefore may not be reflective of behaviour under current or future policy conditions. Caution should be taken when interpreting the analysis for higher ranks and longer lengths of service as this is a small population.

You may also find it helpful to note the response to question four is comprised of all personnel who have an extended career engagement recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA). This includes personnel who received an extended career under equivalent terms prior to the introduction of Engagement Stage 3. Personnel may have an extended career engagement recorded prior to completion of their previous engagement or reaching the requirements to serve on an extended career. Personnel who continue to serve on an Extension of Service after completion of their extended career engagement are also included.

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](mailto: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 FOI2021/02417**  
**dated 18 March 2021**

**Table 1. The chance a New Entrant Royal Marine Band Service Other Rank will achieve each length of service (LOS) before exiting:**

Length of Service (years)	Chance of Completing Length of Service
0	89%
1	84%
2	79%
3	73%
4	71%
5	70%
6	63%
7	58%
8	54%
9	52%
10	50%
11	47%
12	44%
13	41%
14	39%
15	38%
16	38%
17	35%
18	34%
19	32%
20	32%
21	31%
22	27%
23	19%
24	16%
25	15%
26	13%
27	11%
28	10%
29	8%
30	7%
31	7%
32	6%
33	6%
34	5%
35	3%
36	3%
37	3%
38 and Over	2%

Source: Analysis (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 Royal Marine Band Service Other Rank from OR-2 to OR-9**

Rank		Joining Rank	Start Rank			
		OR-2	OR-4	OR-6	OR-7	OR-8
OR-4	Corporal	37%				
OR-6	Sergeant	26%	77%			
OR-7	Colour Sergeant	19%	60%	77%		
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	12%	37%	49%	11%	
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	4%	11%	16%	0%	43%

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Promotion rates at the 'Joining Rank' are for a New Entrant, e.g. showing that the chance of a Royal Marine Band Service being promoted to OR-9 throughout their career is 4%
2. 'Start Rank' is the rank at the start of the promotion analysis, i.e. where a Royal Marine Band Service OR-6 has a 16% chance of promotion to OR-9.
3. Promotion rates for a start rank of OR-4 and above is calculated for individuals at the median length of service for that rank. For this reason, figures for OR-7 suggest a lower chance of promotion to OR-9 than for OR-6 as the majority of promotions from OR-8 to OR-9 occur before the median length of service at OR-7.

**Table 3. The expected LOS in rank, and expected LOS on promotion to rank in years, for a New Entrant Royal Marine Band Service Other Rank:**

Rank	Expected LOS in Rank	Expected LOS on Promotion to the Rank
OR-2 Marine	8.2	N/A
OR-4 Corporal	5.1	10.5
OR-6 Sergeant	5.4	14.1
OR-7 Colour Sergeant	4.0	19.0
OR-8 Warrant Officer 2	4.6	21.9
OR-9 Warrant Officer 1	9.6	25.6

Source: Analysis (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 OR-2.

**Table 4. Strength of Trained Regular Royal Marine Band Service as at 1 October 2020, by Substantive Rank:**

Substantive Rank			Substantive Rank		
OR-2	Marine	176	OF-1	Lieutenant	~
OR-4	Corporal	63	OF-2	Captain	~
OR-6	Sergeant	41	OF-3	Major	~
OR-7	Colour Sergeant	33	OF-4	Lt-Colonel	~
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	11			
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	7			

Source: Analysis (Navy)

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Figures of 5 or fewer are represented by '~'



**Table 5. Trained Regular Royal Marine Band Service on an Extended Career, as at 1 October 2020, by Substantive Rank:**

Substantive Rank				Substantive Rank		
OR-2	Marine		~	OF-1/2	Lieutenant/Captain	-
OR-4	Corporal		~	OF-3	Major	~
OR-6	Sergeant		~	OF-4	Lt-Colonel	~
OR-7	Colour Sergeant	16				
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2		~			
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1		~			

Source: Analysis (Navy)

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Figures of 5 or fewer are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'

**Table 6. Strength of Trained Regular Royal Marine Band Service as at, 1 October 2020, by Age:**

Age	
20-24	58
25-29	69
30-34	75
35-39	54
40-44	39
45-49	36
50-54	12
55 and Over	~

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Figures of 5 or fewer are represented by '~'

