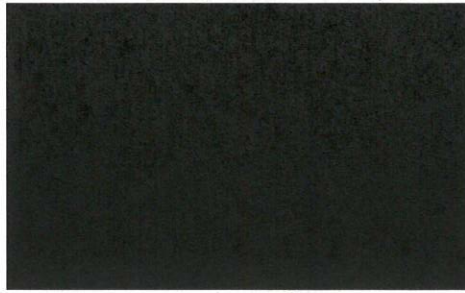




Ministry
of Defence



Ref: FOI2019/06414

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



30 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Further to our correspondence of 2 July 2020, I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your request for the following information:

'Please could you provide the following statistics for candidates entering the Pilot branch under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Specifically, I would be grateful if you could provide data over the last 3 fiscal years for candidates applying for the Pilot branch:

1. The number of applicants per year;
2. The number of candidates boarded at AIB per year;
3. The number of candidates enlisted into phase one training each year

In addition to this, could you please shed light on future recruitment for Pilot for the current and next 2 fiscal years:

1. The number of recruits for the Pilot branch that are expected to commence IOT over the next 12, 24 and 36 months.'

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

As explained in our interim response, we provided confirmation that a search had been conducted within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and that information in scope of your request is held. In the same correspondence we also explained that it was determined that to provide some of the information you requested could fall within the scope of the qualified exemption under Section 26 (Defence) of the FOI Act.

As section 26(1)(b) is a qualified exemption it has been necessary to conduct a Public Interest Test to assess whether release of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effectiveness and capability of our Armed Forces. The Department has conducted the Public Interest Test for this exemption and, after careful consideration of the information, has concluded that the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption at s26(1)(b).

Information in response to the first part of your request is detailed at Annex A to this letter.

With regard to the second part of your request in relation to future recruitment, on current plans, the number of recruits expected to commence Initial Officer Training in the Royal Navy Pilot Branch is around 40 pilots for each of the next three years.

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 (email 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

RN Pilot Branch Candidate Information for the last Three Years

	FY	FY	FY
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
1. Pilot Applications Received.	550	610	950
2. Number of Pilot candidates boarded at the AIB.	60	60	80
3. Intake to Phase One training.	40	40	30

Notes:

- All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid bias.
- Figures will not necessarily relate to the same cohort of people. For example, AIB in 17/18 won't necessarily be those who applied in 17/18.
- Figures include personnel recruited via the Upper Yardman scheme (Officer candidate entrance by Junior Ratings showing aptitude for Officer rank).

