



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2021/08057

E-mail: [NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

18 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 July 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'I would like to know the number of total FAA pilot applicants, and the number who succeed at BRNC and who move on to the EFT stage. I would also like to know how many applicants finish the entire flight training process for both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. If possible, could you present this data on a year-by-year basis starting from 2015?'

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 information in scope of your request is held. The information to answer all parts 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

**Table 1. Number of Applicants to Regular Royal Navy Pilot, by Financial Year**

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Pilot Applicants	540	575	601	699	961	995

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Applicants in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 include a small number (less than five per year) of Pilot applications to the Other Ranks. In the Royal Navy all Pilots join as Officers.
2. Figures are based on career choice at the time of application, applicants may change their career choice throughout the process.
3. Between the introduction of Defence Recruitment System (DRS) in November 2017 and 1 August 2019 some applications were not recorded on DRS; these applications are not included in the statistics as they cannot be verified and there is a risk of double counting.

**Table 2. Number of Royal Navy Pilots Successful at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC), by Financial Year**

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
BRNC Output	33	38	36	33	35	10

Source: Flying Training

**Table 3. Number of Royal Navy Pilots Completing the Flight Training Process, by Aircraft Type and Financial Year**

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Rotary Wing	6	9	20	13	13	11
Fixed Wing	-	~	~	8	5	7

Source: Flying Training

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

