



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2021/10532

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5 October 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 September 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'1. Would you please provide the following information for Royal Marine (General Duties) (GD RM) other ranks for the period 2013 to 2020:

- a. The chances of promotion from GD RM up to and including WO1.
- b. The chances of survival for a GD RM annually up to year of service 30.

2. Would you please provide the following information for Royal Marine (Heavy Weapons (HW) Specialist).

- a. The chances of promotion for a HW Mne up to and including WO1.
- b. The chances of survival for a HW RM up to year of service 30.'

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 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.

I should advise you that the analysis in Tables 1 and 2 have been provided for Royal Marine (RM) General Duties (GD) personnel at the rank of OR-2 (Marine) with a Length of Service (LOS) of 3 years, and Tables 3 and 4 have been provided for Royal Marine Heavy Weapons (HW) personnel at the rank of OR-2 (Marine) with a LOS of 3 years. LOS of 3 years was

selected as this is the median length of service on entry to the HW specialisation. Please note personnel cannot join the RM as HW, they join as GD and then specialise later in their career. LOS of 3 years has been provided for RM GD, to allow for comparison between figures.

In respect of the RM GD, please note the majority of personnel who enter the RM as GD will transfer out of this specialisation. Analysis provided for RM GD only accounts for personnel who remain in the GD specialisation. Personnel who remain in the GD specialisation may behave differently to those who transfer to other specialisations.

Figures for LOS are based on their total LOS from joining the RM, not just the length of time served in the HW specialisation. You may also find it helpful to note, 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

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 take your complaint 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. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

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**Table 1. The chance of promotion for an OR-2 Royal Marine General Duties with Length of Service of 3 years.**

Rank		Chance of Promotion to Rank
OR-4	Corporal	38%
OR-6	Sergeant	17%
OR-7	Colour Sergeant	10%
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	4%
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	1%

Source: Analysis (Navy)

**Table 2. The chance an OR-2 Royal Marine General Duties with Length of Service (LOS) of 3 years will achieve each LOS before exiting.**

Length of Service (years)	Chance of Completing Length of Service
4	89%
5	73%
6	61%
7	52%
8	46%
9	40%
10	35%
11	32%
12	29%
13	24%
14	21%
15	21%
16	19%
17	17%
18	16%
19	16%
20	15%
21	14%
22	5%
23	5%
24	4%
25	4%
26	3%
27	3%
28	3%
29	2%
30 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 3. The chance of promotion for an OR-2 Royal Marine Heavy Weapons with Length of Service of 3 years.**

Rank		Chance of Promotion to Rank
OR-4	Corporal	31%
OR-6	Sergeant	21%
OR-7	Colour Sergeant	15%
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	7%
OR-9	Warrant Officer 1	4%

Source: Analysis (Navy)

**Table 4. The chance an OR-2 Royal Marine Heavy Weapons with Length of Service (LOS) of 3 years will achieve each LOS before exiting:**

Length of Service (years)	Chance of Completing Length of Service
4	87%
5	75%
6	62%
7	51%
8	45%
9	40%
10	34%
11	30%
12	27%
13	24%
14	23%
15	21%
16	20%
17	19%
18	19%
19	19%
20	18%
21	18%
22	11%
23	10%
24	9%
25	7%
26	6%
27	6%
28	5%
29	5%
30 and over	4%

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.

