



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2022/09891

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

22 September 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 August 2022 in which you requested the following information:

“Could you please provide the following information on RN recruitment over the last seven years:

For male and female recruitment, the number of Contacts, Applicants and Entrants for RN officers, RN ratings, RM Officers and RM Other Ranks.

If the information could be provided in a similar format to that provided in FOI 2021/12993, dated 23 November 2021, it would be greatly appreciated.”

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

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found at Annex A of this letter. For your awareness, tables 1 and 2 represent Expressions of Interest (Contacts) broken down by Officer and Other Rank and include all Expressions of Interest to the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. For Table 2, ‘eligible’ Expressions of Interest are those that declare eligible age ranges and nationalities and would therefore be eligible to receive a link the application form.

Further to this, tables 3 and 4 represent Candidates to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. The same Candidate can submit multiple applications to the same service in the same financial year, and these are counted as one Candidate; where the same Candidate

submits an application to a different service or in a different financial year, that is counted as separate Candidates.

For successful applicants who accept an offer to join the Services, there is a substantial processing time between their application being received and the applicant joining the Services. Therefore, the intake figures for a given financial year are not comparable with the number applicants in that financial year as the numbers apply to different cohorts of people.

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. Expressions of Interests (Contacts) to the Regular Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary, by Financial Year**

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,733</b>	<b>84,878</b>	<b>102,278</b>	<b>94,349</b>	<b>101,058</b>	<b>91,367</b>
Officer	14,293	18,460	19,622	18,891	21,188	18,851
<i>Female</i>	2,475	3,547	3,757	3,603	4,080	3,509
<i>Male</i>	11,818	14,913	15,865	15,288	17,108	15,342
Other Rank	61,440	66,418	82,656	75,458	79,870	72,516
<i>Female</i>	11,185	12,649	16,502	14,148	15,685	15,563
<i>Male</i>	50,255	53,769	66,154	61,310	64,185	56,953

Source: Navy People and Training Directorate

1. These figures include contacts to the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary

**Table 2. Eligible Expressions of Interests (Contacts) to the Regular Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary, by Financial Year**

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,572</b>	<b>73,779</b>	<b>83,937</b>	<b>78,942</b>	<b>77,611</b>	<b>57,936</b>
Officer	12,240	15,672	15,039	14,945	17,166	13,604
<i>Female</i>	1,961	2,935	2,895	2,828	3,156	2,279
<i>Male</i>	10,279	12,737	12,144	12,117	14,010	11,325
Other Rank	54,332	58,107	68,898	63,997	60,445	44,332
<i>Female</i>	9,666	10,779	13,462	11,721	11,108	9,123
<i>Male</i>	44,666	47,328	55,436	52,276	49,337	35,209

Source: Navy People and Training Directorate

1. These figures include eligible contacts to the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary
2. An eligible Expression of Interest is one that declares an eligible age range and nationality, and therefore was eligible to receive a link to the Application Form

**Table 3. Applicants to the Regular Royal Navy, by Financial Year\***

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Total Royal Navy Applicants</b>	<b>19,729</b>	<b>19,824</b>	<b>22,457</b>	<b>10,864</b>
Officer	4,920	6,038	6,668	3,605
<i>Female</i>	1,007	1,153	1,293	636
<i>Male</i>	3,913	4,885	5,375	2,969
Other Rank	14,809	13,786	15,789	7,259
<i>Female</i>	3,231	2,733	3,092	1,544
<i>Male</i>	11,578	11,053	12,697	5,715

Source: Analysis (Navy)

**\* 2021/22 financial year includes Applications made up to 31 December 2021**

1. Applicant career choices (e.g. RN Officer or RN Rating) are based on their declared career choice at the time of Application. Applicants may change their career choice throughout the process.
2. Applicants may apply to the same career choice more than once in the same financial year; figures provided are comprised of the number of individual applicants not the number of applications submitted. Applicants who have applied to more than one career or in different financial years are included in each place.
3. Total is comprised of the total number of individual applicants to Regular Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Therefore, applicants who applied to more than one career choice are included once and the total will not match the sum of the individual career choices.
4. Between the introduction of 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 4. Applicants to the Regular Royal Marines, by Financial Year\***

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Total Royal Marine Applicants</b>	<b>6,837</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>9,134</b>	<b>4,617</b>
Officer	1,226	1,288	1,518	869
<i>Female</i>	32	39	53	30
<i>Male</i>	1,194	1,249	1,465	839
Other Rank	5,611	6,302	7,616	3,748
<i>Female</i>	176	187	210	124
<i>Male</i>	5,435	6,115	7,406	3,624

Source: Analysis (Navy)

**\* 2021/22 financial year includes Applications made up to 31 December 2021**

1. Applicant career choices (e.g. RM Officer or RM Rating) are based on their declared career choice at the time of Application. Applicants may change their career choice throughout the process.
2. Applicants may apply to the same career choice more than once in the same financial year; figures provided are comprised of the number of individual applicants

not the number of applications submitted. Applicants who have applied to more than one career or in different financial years are included in each place.

3. Total is comprised of the total number of individual applicants to Regular Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Therefore, applicants who applied to more than one career choice are included once and the total will not match the sum of the individual career choices.
4. Between the introduction of 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.
5. Figures for 2014/15 include online applications received from June 2014 onwards. Prior to Jun 2014 the 'Date of Application' measured was the date the record was manually added to the system, which approximated to the receipt of the paper application form.

**Table 5. Intake to the Regular Royal Navy, by Financial Year**

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Total Royal Navy Intake</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>2,449</b>
Officer	277	322	261	239
<i>Female</i>	38	60	51	48
<i>Male</i>	239	262	210	191
Other Rank	2,010	2,274	2,607	2,210
<i>Female</i>	231	308	372	290
<i>Male</i>	1,779	1,966	2,235	1,920

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Intake numbers are compiled from the Joint Personnel Administration System

**Table 6. Intake to the Regular Royal Marines, by Financial Year**

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Total Royal Marine Intake</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,065</b>
Officer	44	45	53	53
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Male</i>	44	45	53	53
Other Rank	711	851	958	1,012
<i>Female</i>	5	10	19	14
<i>Male</i>	706	841	939	998

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Intake numbers are compiled from the Joint Personnel Administration System
2. "-" denotes 0.

