



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2023/08302

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
25 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 July 2023 in which you requested the following information:

'Please would it be possible to know how many female naval officers there are of the rank of captain, commodore, rear admiral, vice admiral and full admiral?
Please would it also be possible to know how many of these female naval officers are currently in warfare and operational roles ie NOT comms, training, HR, logistics, etc.'

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

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 MOD is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As some of the information you have requested is already available to the public, we have assessed your request falls under the absolute exemption at Section 21 (information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the Act. Consequently, we are not obliged to provide you with this information.

Information in relation to part one of your request for the figures of female Royal Navy (RN) officers broken down by rank, can be found via the following link:

[UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics](#)

Please be advised, that as at 1 April 2023, there are no female Officers serving in the Royal Marines.

In response to part two of your request, figures for female RN officers in the Warfare Branch, can be found at Annex A to this letter.

Please be advised that Officers in the Warfare branch can undertake a range of functions in their roles. Due to the nature of role variation across the service and frequency of movement between assignments, it is not appropriate to distinguish which Officers working in the Warfare branch are currently in a role that is considered combative compared to a desk-based role.

For information on Females in all roles, all Trained Regular Female figures are detailed in the link provided for UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics.

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). 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. Strength of Trained Regular Female Warfare General Service, Air and Submariner Officers, as at 1 April 2023 by Substantive Rank OF5 and above:

Substantive Rank		
OF-5	Captain	~
OF-6	Commodore	~
OF-7	Rear-Admiral	-
OF-8	Vice-Admiral	-
OF-9	Admiral	-

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Figures fewer than 5 are represented by '~', 0 is represented by '-'.
2. Figures have been provided as number of Females within a Warfare Branch (including General Service, Air and Submariners). Due to the varied nature of the roles, we are unable to identify what functions personnel are specifically undertaking.
3. Women have been eligible to serve on submarines since 2011.

