



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
7 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 July 2023 in which you requested the following information:

'Dear Royal Navy,

I would like to request the following please:

- 1) What is the current (valid as of July 2023) pass mark required for all pilot candidates attempting the Flying Aptitude Tests at RAF Cranwell?
- 2) What criteria must be satisfied for Pilot for a score to have met the pass mark (ie. Stanines & Domains)?
- 3) What caveats/ limitations are applicable to candidates put forwards for Flying Aptitude Tests for all three Fleet Air Arm roles (eg. Eligible for resit in one year etc.)
- 4) Do the caveats/limitations differ for the Army and Royal Air Force?
- 5) Where is the guidance documentation for decisions relating to FAT's found?'

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.

In response to point one of your request, the current pass mark required for pilot candidates attempting the Royal Navy (RN) Flying Aptitude Tests (FATS) is 218.

In response to point two of your request, there are seven criteria that are scored against the statistical 'Standard Nine' scoring system. The minimum score required for each criteria is detailed in the following table:

Criteria	Minimum score required
Strategic Task Management	4
Perception	4
Short Term Memory and Capacity	2
Spatial Reasoning	5
Symbolic Reasoning	4
Psychomotor	4
Central Information Processing	5

In response to point three of your request, caveats applicable to candidates put forward for FATS for the three RN Fleet Air Arm roles are as follows:

- Flying Aptitude Tests (FATS) – Re-attending.
 - Only Observer or Air Traffic Controller candidates may re-sit FATS, provided they remain eligible in all other respects.
 - There must be an interval of at least 12 months before re-sitting the tests.
 - A Pilot candidate who fails FATS can be reconsidered only for Observer or Air Traffic Controller following a resit.
 - Candidates will be allowed to retake the tests up to the age of 26.
 - Sitting the aptitude tests for the Special Flying Award (which is separate from the FATS) will not preclude a candidate from sitting the full FATS.

In response to point four of your request, the Army differs from the RN with the caveat that a resit is allowed after 12 months for those who are within 10% of pass mark, on the basis they have passed five out of the seven criteria.

In response to point five of your request, FATS guidance for the RN, is located within Books of Reference 3(1) 'Naval Personnel Management', Part 4, Chapter 10 which is readily available in the public domain via the following link:

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/reference-library/brd3-volume-1>

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