



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2023/08865

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 July 2023 in which you requested the following information:

- 'A) How many medical doctors are currently serving in the Royal Navy (regulars and reserves)?
- B) How many of these are GPs (or the Royal Navy equivalent of a GP)?
- C) i. How many are specialists (equivalent to a hospital doctor)?
- ii. A breakdown of the number of doctors in each specialty?
- D) How many new medical doctors are recruited every year on average?'

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 and can be found at annex A to this letter.

Information in response to questions 1-3 of your request is detailed in table 1.

In response to question 4 of your request, this information is detailed in table 2.

Medical Doctors have been defined as personnel who are trained as Medical Doctors, regardless of trained status within the Royal Navy. Personnel listed as Medical Services have been excluded as this role encompasses Support Staff, Training Staff and Human Resources among other support roles. 'Specialists equivalent to Hospital Doctor' has been defined as doctors who specialise in a field which is based in a hospital and could not be based elsewhere. Therefore, the sum of Specialists and General Practitioners will not equal the total of Medical Doctors. Examples of those excluded from the title of 'specialist' include

trainees (trained doctors, but not yet qualified as specialists in their field); an example of those excluded from 'Hospital Doctor' include Psychiatrists and non-accredited General Practitioners.

Please be advised that figures have been rounded in line with disclosure control to avoid the inadvertent identity of individuals which would put us in breach of our obligations in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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 Regular and FR20 Medical Doctors in the Royal Navy by specialism, as at 1 April 2023:

		Total
Medical Doctors		324
	Accredited General Practitioner	74
	Specialist equivalent to Hospital Doctor	83
<i>Of which</i>	<i>Anaesthetist</i>	22
	<i>Emergency Medicine</i>	14
	<i>General Surgeon</i>	12
	<i>Medicine</i>	7
	<i>Trauma & Orthopaedics</i>	9
	<i>Neurology</i>	~
	<i>Oto-Rhino Laryngology</i>	~
	<i>Ophthalmology</i>	~
	<i>Radiologist</i>	~
	<i>Burns & Plastics</i>	~
	<i>Oral Maxillofacial Surgery</i>	~
	<i>Pathology – Haematology</i>	~
	<i>Path – Microbiology</i>	~

Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Figures 5 or fewer are represented by '~'.

Table 2. Average Regular and FR20 Medical Doctors Intake per year from 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2023:

Average Yearly Intake (Mean)	11
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Source: Analysis (Navy)

1. Mean average intake has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

