



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2023/09256

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
10 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 July 2023 in which you requested the following information:

'I am after some statistic on teh Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course. Could you please tell me the following information.

1. When was the course first instigated ?
2. How many candidates have taken the course since its inception ?
3. How many of those candidates has passed the course ?
4. Are female officers now allowed to take the course ?
5. If yes how many female officers have taken the course ?
6. If yes how many female officers have passed the course ?
7. Of those officers passing the course how many have gone on to be a "Teacher"
8. Does this course come under the remit of FOST or Flag officer Submarines.'

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

In response to part one of your request, I can confirm that the Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course began in 1917.

In response to part two of your request, the details of Officers appointed to the course were not historically recorded. While the more recent electronic personnel systems in place can provide some detail on who has been assigned to the course, this will still generate significant gaps in reporting. Therefore, we are unable to

provide you with any meaningful or accurate data to satisfy this element of your request.

In response to part three of your request, the number of officers to have passed the Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course since the course began is 1201.

In response to part four of your request, I can confirm that females are allowed to take the Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course.

In response to parts five and six of your request, the number of females to have taken and/or passed the Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course is nil.

In response to part seven of your request, the number of officers who have passed the Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course and subsequently become a teacher on the course is 69.

In response to part eight of your request, I can confirm the Submarine Commanding Officers Qualifying Course falls under the remit of Fleet Operational Standards and Training (SM).

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