



Ministry
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section
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FOI2023/09260

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Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

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

I am making a Freedom of Information request to seek the following detail regarding the Royal Navy's Career Field and promotion selection process for selection for promotion from Commander/Lieutenant Colonel/OF4. I request the following:

1. For the 2022 promotion round, the number of OF4s graded A, B+, B and C by primary career field (Capability and Acquisition, Operations, Operational Support, Managing Defence, HR, Defence Engagement).
2. For the 2022 promotion round the number of OF4s selected to the OF5 pool by primary career field (Capability and Acquisition, Operations, Operational Support, Managing Defence, HR, Defence Engagement).
3. For the 2022 promotion round the number of OF4s extracted from the OF5 pool on promotion within their selected career field.
4. For the 2022 promotion round the number of OF4s extracted from the OF5 pool on promotion outside of their selected career field.
5. For the 2022 promotion round the number of OF4s that were read by secondary career field promotion boards.
6. For the 2023 promotion round the number of OF4s graded A, B+, B and C by primary career field (Capability and Acquisition, Operations, Operational Support, Managing Defence, HR, Defence Engagement).
7. For the 2023 promotion round the number of OF4s selected to the OF5 pool by primary career field (Capability and Acquisition, Operations, Operational Support, Managing Defence, HR, Defence Engagement).
8. For the 2023 promotion round the number of OF4s that were read by secondary career field promotion boards.

9. Confirmation that OF4s are considered for promotion by their secondary career field promotion boards if not selected by their primary career field.
10. Confirmation that OF4s are considered for promotion to OF5 within their specified primary and secondary career fields only.'

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 (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and can be found at Annex A to this letter.

Firstly, no recorded information is held in response to points 5 and 8 of your request.

In response to points 1 and 6, this information is detailed in Table 1.

In response to points 2 and 7, this information is detailed in Table 2.

In response to points 3 and 4, this information is detailed in Table 3.

Finally, the MOD is permitted to withhold information where an exemption is considered justifiable. As the information you have requested at points 9 and 10 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.

Eligible candidates are only read by the primary Career Field. Further information on this element of your request can be found within the Book of Reference 3(1) Chapter 66, Officer Promotions, which is accessible via the following link:

https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/-/media/royal-navy-responsive/documents/reference-library/br-3-vol-1/br3d-vol-1-feb-2022/ch66_compressed.pdf?la=en-gb&rev=b7ce4bd46d8f4ea2ad2bbb532ab64d10&hash=374AA06B51D6D95DAAE39CA388B9D60E

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. Number of OF4 personnel graded by Primary Career Field, 2022 to 2023:

	2022	2023
A	66	118
<i>Of which Capability and Acquisition</i>	10	26
<i>Operations</i>	14	24
<i>Operational Support</i>	12	23
<i>Managing Defence</i>	7	11
<i>HR</i>	5	16
<i>Defence Engagement</i>	18	18
B+	90	122
<i>Of which Capability and Acquisition</i>	24	26
<i>Operations</i>	31	33
<i>Operational Support</i>	14	32
<i>Managing Defence</i>	9	6
<i>HR</i>	8	6
<i>Defence Engagement</i>	4	19
B	179	117
<i>Of which Capability and Acquisition</i>	48	50
<i>Operations</i>	43	17
<i>Operational Support</i>	49	17
<i>Managing Defence</i>	7	7
<i>HR</i>	17	16
<i>Defence Engagement</i>	15	10
C	89	80
<i>Of which Capability and Acquisition</i>	18	37
<i>Operations</i>	12	11
<i>Operational Support</i>	37	11
<i>Managing Defence</i>	4	1
<i>HR</i>	5	10
<i>Defence Engagement</i>	13	10

Source: Royal Navy Promotions

Table 2. Promotions selected from OF4 to OF5 pool, by Primary Career Field, 2022 to 2023:

	2022	2023
Selected to OF5 from OF4	45	75
<i>Of which Capability and Acquisition</i>	6	15
<i>Operations</i>	12	16
<i>Operational Support</i>	8	10
<i>Managing Defence</i>	7	11
<i>HR</i>	5	13
<i>Defence Engagement</i>	7	10

Source: Royal Navy Promotions

Table 3. Number of OF4 Personnel extracted from the OF5 pool on promotion within their selected career field, 2022 to 2023:

	2022	2023
Extracted	32 (36)	24 (20)

Source: People & Training Headquarters

Personnel can be categorised as either Operational Support or Capability and Acquisition depending on what department they fall under, the values in brackets are the values if the roles are realigned.

