



Ministry  
of Defence

## Recruit Trainee Survey - Cover Note 2023/24

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The statistical release found separately provides results from the Recruit Trainee Survey (RTS) 2023/24. The RTS is administered to all Phase 1 and 2 training establishments to gauge Phase 1 Recruits' and Phase 2 Trainees' perceptions of training, facilities and food, support, fairness of treatment, general perceptions of the course and hopes for the future. The data is used to inform training units on their performance, and to compare results with required standards set by the MOD.

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**Background quality report:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/recruit-trainee-survey>

## Methodology

All Trainees and Recruits who have completed at least two weeks training who should have been given the opportunity to participate in the survey. Participants complete an anonymous and confidential online questionnaire.

The survey was carried out over a 12-month survey period (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) During this time 3209 Army Recruits, 837 Royal Navy Recruits, 1109 RAF Recruits and 483 Royal Marines Recruits completed the RTS in Phase 1 training. In Phase 2 training, 2353 Trainees in Army units, 609 Trainees in Royal Navy units, 1953 Trainees in RAF units, 353 Royal Marines Trainees and 774 Trainees from UKStratCom units completed the survey.

A detailed explanation of the statistical reliability of this survey is found in Page 45 of the Executive Summary, however it should be noted that due to non-response we cannot be certain that the figures obtained are exactly those we would have found, had everybody been surveyed (the 'true' values). For any percentage given 'confidence intervals' are estimated within which the true values are likely to fall. For example, if 10% or 90% of our sample of 3209 Army Phase 1 Recruits strongly agreed that the training was what they expected we can be 99% confident that the 'true' value would be between 10.9% and 9.1% (if 10% strongly agree) and between 90.9% or 89.1% (if 90% strongly agree), i.e., a margin of 0.9% on each side. Confidence levels for each Phase, Service and response frequencies are shown at page 46 of the Executive Summary.

**Table 1: Response rates**

Phase 1	2022/2023 Total Responses**	2022/2023 Response Rate %	2023/2024 Total Responses**	2023/2024 Response Rate %
Army	3156	62%	3209	60%
Navy	1070	63%	837	52%
RAF	906	75%	1109	94%
Royal Marines	568	74%	483	82%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5700</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>5638</b>	<b>65%</b>
Phase 2*	2022/2023 Total Responses**	2022/2023 Response Rate %	2023/2024 Total Responses**	2023/2024 Response Rate %
Army	3214	80%	2353	65%
Navy	635	39%	609	36%
RAF	2341	68%	1953	82%
Royal Marines	455	95%	353	60%
UKStratCom	499	70%	774	80%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7144</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>6042</b>	<b>65%</b>

\*Some Phase 2 trainees completed the survey more than once depending on the structure of their Phase 2 training.

\*\*Response rates are based on the number of recruits and trainees who had completed at least 2 weeks training. In some cases, recruits/trainees may have not been given the opportunity to complete the survey, rather than actively not choosing to complete it.

## Statistical Testing

Results of statistical testing are reported in the Executive Summary. Comparisons have been reported where the year-on-year differences between 22/23 and 23/24 were found to be statistically significant and therefore likely to reflect true shifts in perceptions or attitudes. These are the only statistically significant differences flagged.

## **Revisions**

Corrections to the published statistics will be made if errors are found, or if figures change as a result of improvements to methodology or changes to definitions. When making corrections, we will follow the Ministry of Defence [Statistics Revisions and Corrections Policy](#). All corrected figures will be identified by the symbol “r”, and an explanation will be given of the reason for and size of the revision. Corrections which would have a significant impact on the utility of the statistics will be corrected as soon as possible, by reissuing the publication. Minor errors will also be corrected, but for convenience these corrections may be timed to coincide with the next annual release of the publication.

## **Further Information**

### **Contact Us**

The MOD welcomes feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication, you can contact us as follows:

Email: [People-Strat-CDPREGroup@mod.gov.uk](mailto:People-Strat-CDPREGroup@mod.gov.uk)

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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