



Ministry
of Defence

Officer Cadet Survey - Cover Note 2023/24

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The statistical release found separately provides results from the Officer Cadet Survey (OCS) 2023/24. The OCS is administered to four of the Armed Services initial Officer training colleges to gauge Officer Cadets' 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 colleges 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/officer-cadet-survey>

Methodology

All Officer Cadets who have completed at least two weeks training should be 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, 408 Army Officer Cadets, 320 Royal Navy Officer Cadets, 230 RAF Officer Cadets and 6 RM Officer Cadets completed the survey. The overall response rate of 73% for all four colleges in 2023/24 was compared with 67% in 2022/23. Data for the RM Officer Cadets is not included in the reports as there were less than the minimum of 30 responses required for reporting – low numbers of RM Officer Cadets is somewhat expected due to smaller course sizes compared with other Services.

There have been small changes in the respondent profile in terms of age and gender. The data is not weighted to take account of non-response. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding. A detailed explanation of the statistical reliability of this survey is found in page 22 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 interviewed (the 'true' values). For any percentage given 'confidence intervals' within which the true values are likely to fall are estimated. For example; if 10% or 90% of our sample of 408 Army Officer Cadets strongly agreed that the training was what they expected, we can be 99% confident that the 'true' value would be between 12.0% or 8.0% (if 10% strongly agree) and between 92.0% or 88.0% (if 90% strongly agree) i.e. a margin of 2.0% on each side. Confidence levels for each Phase, Service and response frequencies are shown at page 23 of the Executive Summary.

Table 1: Response rates

| | 2022/2023 Total Responses** | 2022/2023 Response Rate % | 2023/2024 Total Responses** | 2023/2024 Response Rate % |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Army | 414 | 70% | 408 | 73% |
| Navy | 180 | 55% | 320 | 77% |
| RAF | 24 | 43% | 6 | 10% |
| Royal Marines | 319 | 75% | 230 | 80% |
| TOTAL | 937 | 67% | 964 | 73% |

**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 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:

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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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