Ministry of Defence

Officer Cadet Survey - Cover Note 2025/26

Published Nov 26

The statistical release found separately provides results from the Officer Cadet Survey (OCS) 2025/26. 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.

Responsible statistician: Head of Defence People, Research and Evaluation
Email: People-Strat-CDPREGroup@mod.gov.uk
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 2025 to 31 March 2026). During this time, 171 Army Officer Cadets, 149 Royal Navy Officer Cadets, 49 Royal Marines Officer Cadets and 241 RAF Officer Cadets completed the survey.

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 26 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 171 Army Officer Cadets strongly agreed that the training was what they expected, we can be 99% confident that the 'true' value would be between 14.8% or 5.2% (if 10% strongly agree) and between 94.8% or 85.2% (if 90% strongly agree) i.e. a margin of 4.8% on each side. Confidence levels for each Phase, Service and response frequencies are shown at page 27 of the Executive Summary.

Table 1: Response rates

	2024/2025 Total Responses**	2024/2025 Response Rate %	2025/2026 Total Responses **	2025/2026 Response Rate %
Army	447	86%	171	34%
Navy	339	73%	149	35%
Royal Marines	32	60%	46	81%
RAF	171	46%	241	77%
TOTAL	**989**	**66%**	**607**	**57%**

**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. Please note response rates are approximations based on available eligibility figures.

Statistical Testing

Results of statistical testing are reported in the Executive Summary. Comparisons have been reported where the year-on-year differences between 25/26 and 24/25 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:

Email: 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

If you wish to correspond by mail, our postal address is:

Defence People, Research and Evaluation (DPTRE)
Ministry of Defence, Main Building
Floor 3 Zone M
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

For general MOD enquiries, please call: 020 7218 9000.