Ministry of Defence

Recruit Trainee Survey - Cover Note 2025/26

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The statistical release found separately provides results from the Recruit Trainee Survey (RTS) 2025/26. 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 2025 to 31 March 2026) During this time 5116 Army Recruits, 1377 Royal Navy Recruits, 1840 RAF Recruits completed the RTS in Phase 1 training. In Phase 2 training, 2798 Trainees in Army units, 855 Trainees in Royal Navy units, 415 Royal Marines Trainees, 1784 Trainees in RAF units, and 501 Trainees under Cyber and Specialist Operations Command (CSOC – previously UKStratCom) units completed the survey. To note, CSOC units only offer Phase 2 training and as of 25/26, only Royal Marines Phase 2 trainees are included in the Executive Summary. Initial Training for the Royal Marines consists of 4 modules delivered over a 32-week course – in previous years, Royal Marines responses have been reported split into Phase 1 and Phase 2 in alignment with the other Services. Feedback has suggested this split does not reflect the training course accurately as there is no break between Phase 1 and Phase 2 training. This report now only includes Royal Marines Phase 2 responses, collected at the end of the total 32-week course. Data collected in Phase 1 is still included in the supporting tables.

A detailed explanation of the statistical reliability of this survey is found in Page 38 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 5116 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 10.6% and 9.4% (if 10% strongly agree) and between 90.6% or 89.4% (if 90% strongly agree), i.e., a margin of 0.6% on each side. Confidence levels for each Phase, Service and response frequencies are shown at page 39 of the Executive Summary.

Table 1: Response rates

Phase 1	2024/2025 Total Responses**	2024/2025 Response Rate %	2025/2026 Total Responses**	2025/2026 Response Rate %
Army	4749	75%	5116	72%
Navy	1059	56%	1377	69%
RAF	1303	97%	2840	83%
TOTAL	**7111**	**76%**	**9333**	**75%**
Phase 2*	2024/2025 Total Responses**	2024/2025 Response Rate %	2025/2026 Total Responses**	2025/2026 Response Rate %
Army	3067	63%	2798	56%
Navy	606	41%	855	49%
Royal Marines	285	65%	415	97%
RAF	1669	64%	1784	64%
CSOC	590	96%	501	63%
TOTAL	**6217**	**66%**	**6353**	**66%**

*Some Phase 2 trainees could have 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. 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 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:

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

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