



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: 2017/01345, 2017/02113



22 February 2017

Dear ,

Thank you for your emails of 19 and 27 January 2017 requesting the following information:

Are you able to provide any statistical data relating to the conversion (ie., the number or percentage of Officer Cadets who proceed to Commission on graduating) from Officer Cadet to Commissioned Entry into the RAF

Are you able to provide any statistics on the competition ratios (ie., applicants to recruits) for entrants in 2015 and 2016, in addition to the success rates at initial selection?

Are you able to provide statistical data as to the wastage/drop-out rate for Officers during training both in Initial Officer Training (IOT) and Specialist Training? Would there have been any further points in an Intelligence Officer's career where wastage might have occurred?

Assuming the Claimant had been successful in being appointed to a commission following graduation, and had successfully completed her initial training, and specialist training could you please provide DASA statistics showing the average time in rank (typical progression) for RAF Intelligence Officers through the ranks from Flight Lieutenant and beyond?

Are you able to provide the latest statistics regarding the average length of commissioned service for RAF Intelligence Officers (broken down by gender if possible)?

Can you provide pay scales, including NEM Supplements for Intelligence Officers?

Given the number of roles available in the Intelligence Branch, as set out above, do you hold data which demonstrates the proportion of Officers in each of the Branches?

Are you able to provide statistical data to show the chances of serving to 20 years (or 40 years of age) and to age 55 years?

Additionally, thank you for your email of 8 February 2017 clarifying part of your original request:

'I am requesting information referring to the Intelligence Branch, and the proportion of Officers in each different role within the Intelligence Branch.'

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA 2000).

A search for the information requested has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. However, the MOD does not hold recorded percentages, ratios or averages for the information requested.

Some of the information you have requested falls within scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 21 (Information reasonably accessible by other means) and section 40 (Personal data), and qualified exemption provided for at section 26 (Information which, if disclosed, would prejudice defence or the capability, effectiveness or security of relevant forces) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

For clarity, I will answer each of your questions in turn.

The number of first time attendee entrant Intelligence Officer Cadets who proceeded to commissioned entry into the RAF in Financial Year 2015-16 and 2016-17 can be found attached at Annex A.

The statistics on competition ratios (i.e. applicants to recruits) for entrants in 2015 and 2016, in addition to the success rates at initial selection is information not held.

The statistical data as to the wastage/drop-out rate for Officers during training both in Initial Officer Training (IOT) and Specialist Training for Financial Year 2015-16 and 2016-17 (as at 15 December 2016) is zero wastage. Information on any further points in an Intelligence Officer's career where wastage might have occurred is information not held.

Assuming the Claimant had been successful in being appointed to a commission following graduation, and had successfully completed his or her initial and specialist training, statistics showing the average time in rank (typical progression) for RAF Intelligence Officers through the ranks from Flight Lieutenant and beyond is information not held.

The latest statistics regarding the average length of commissioned service for RAF Intelligence Officers (broken down by gender if possible) is information not held.

Information relating to pay scales, including NEM Supplements for RAF Intelligence Officers is exempt under Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the FOIA. This information can be found at the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514120/20160330_NEM-Pay16_Booklet_Rev_300316.pdf

Releasing the proportion of Officers in each different role within the Intelligence Branch has been considered under Section 26(1)(b) of the FOIA – information which, if disclosed, would prejudice, or would be likely to prejudice defence or the capability, effectiveness or security of relevant forces. Section 26(1)(b) is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing, which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing the proportion of Officers in each different role within the Intelligence Branch as this would provide an indication of the Armed Force's operational capability, which would provide tactical advantage to our enemies. Therefore, in this instance the MOD is not obliged to comply with your request.

The statistical data showing the chances of serving to 20 years (or 40 years of age) and to age 55 years is information not held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know, the MOD does not hold recorded percentages, ratios or averages for the information requested. Therefore, we cannot answer your questions requesting percentages, ratios or averages.

The MOD may be able to provide the number of Intelligence Officer Applicants and Entrants in Financial Year 2015-16 and partial figures for Financial Year 2016-17, so that you may be able to work out the competition ratios, and success rates. Additionally, the MOD may be able to provide the average Return of Service (Length of Service on exit) for the Intelligence Branch by gender. However, you may wish to be aware, this information may be subject to exemptions under the FOIA.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website: <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original Signed]

Air Director Resources Secretariat 2B1

Intelligence Officer Cadet on Initial Officer Training Course to Commissioned Entry Numbers for Financial Year 15/16 and 16/17

Date of Initial Officer Training Course (IOTC)	Number of First Time Attendee Entrants	Number of Individuals Graduating IOTC
13 Apr 15 - 18 Dec 15	10	10
6 Jul 15 - 25 Mar 16	~	10
12 Oct 15 - 26 May 16	~	~
18 Jan 16 - 28 Jul 16	10	10
4 Apr 16 - 13 Oct 16	10	10
6 Jun 16 - 15 Dec 16	~	~

Caveats:

It is important to note that these figures are not directly related, i.e. the number of first time attendee entrants may not directly correlate with the number of individuals graduating from the same course. This is because individuals may have failed to graduate, or Officer Cadets may have been re-coursed if they have failed a previous course.

Figures provided are for Recruitment (Financial) Year 2015-2016 (1 Apr 15 – 31 Mar 16), and partial figures are provided for 2016-2017 (1 Apr 16- 15 Dec 16), as the recruitment year is still on-going).

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data has been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.