



Ministry
of Defence

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14 December 2017

Dear XXXXXXXXX

Thank you for your email of 15 November in which you requested the following information:

How many soldiers who enlisted in the army aged a) under 18 and b) 18 years and above dropped out before completing Phase Two training in each of the last five financial years and how many were a) voluntarily discharged b) medically discharged, c) administratively discharged and d) made redundant?

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. For the purposes of this FOI, 'dropped out' has been interpreted as all outflows from the Army. The table below shows the number of untrained Regular soldiers who outflowed from the Army by age group on enlistment and exit category.

	Exit Category	Financial Year				
		2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total Outflow		2,440	1,880	1,720	2,020	1,840
	Medical reasons	480	510	440	400	530
	Administrative / Discipline	1,900	1,300	1,220	1,510	1,220
	Unknown	60	70	60	110	80
Of which under 18		780	620	520	550	540
	Medical reasons	140	150	120	90	130
	Administrative / Discipline	620	430	370	460	390
	Unknown	10	40	30	-	20
Of which age 18 and above		1,660	1,260	1,200	1,470	1,300
	Medical reasons	340	360	320	310	400
	Administrative / Discipline	1,270	870	850	1,060	830
	Unknown	50	40	30	110	70

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Notes:

- The figures are for Regular Army Personnel only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service and Mobilised Reserves.
- Untrained outflow refers to personnel who left Regular Army before completing their Phase 2 training.
- The figures are for outflow of untrained Regular soldiers broken down by financial year of outflow regardless of when they inflowed.

- Age on enlistment is calculated using date of birth and entry date. JPA is supposed to reflect 'current entry date' but if personnel have transferred to the Army from another Service, served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. reserve forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers, their entry date may correspond to any of these events.
- Exit Category is as recorded in the Joint Personnel Administrative System. There are known data quality issues with these data, with many records having missing or incorrect exit categories. These are recorded as unknown in the tables above.
- Redundancy is not applicable to untrained Regular Army Personnel.
- Medical outflow statistics in the table above (which may include deaths) should be considered a single Service estimate and may differ from other official statistics due to different source data.
- The age shown above is the age on enlistment as opposed to the age upon exit.
- For presentational purpose, figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you still wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

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Army Secretariat