



Ministry
of Defence

Headquarters Joint Force Development
Defence Academy of the UK
Shrivenham
SN6 8LA
United Kingdom

E-mail: JFD-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2019/11159

James Smith
Request-608077-be609542@whatdotheyknow.com

24 October 2019

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2019 in which you request the following information:

“Under the FOIA please could I enquire:

A) What is the official reason for the closure of Royal Naval College Greenwich (RNCG)?

B) What ‘functions’ and ‘role’ of (RNCG) were transferred to Joint Service College (JSC) Shrivenham?

C) Does (and how) does JSC (if at all) replicate courses originally run at RNCG?

D) Can you provide the numbers of Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Army personnel that have been trained on Joint Defence Command Staff Courses for every year since 1997?”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I am writing to confirm that the MOD holds some information on the subject you have requested. I will address each of your questions in turn:

A. What is the official reason for the closure of Royal Naval College Greenwich (RNCG)?

I am afraid that despite extensive searches we have not been able to find any recorded information on the decision to close the Royal Navy College Greenwich. Given the passage of time, it may be that any material has been archived; you may therefore wish to contact the National Archives <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> who may hold some information.

Whilst not explicit about the decision to close the RNCG, you may find the following of interest:

In the “Frontline First: The Defence Costs Study Research Paper 94/101 dated 14 October 1994” page 10 under the heading “Training” the first paragraph details the decision to establish a Joint Services Command and Staff College in 1997 which “will conduct a tri-Service command and staff course”. It goes on to state that the new college will be sited at either Camberley or Greenwich and the RAF college at Bracknell will be closed. See following link:

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/RP94-101#fullreport>

Below is a link to the Parliamentary Hansard, which contains a Parliamentary Question (PQ) dated 8 December 1994 on the subject of Staff Colleges. In this PQ the then Secretary of State for Defence, Malcolm Rifkind, confirms his decision that Camberley is by far the most appropriate and cost-effective site and that staff training at Bracknell and Greenwich should cease.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199495/cmhansrd/1994-12-08/Writtens-2.html>

B. *What 'functions' and 'role' of (RNCG) were transferred to Joint Service College (JSC) Shrivenham?*

The table below shows which functions transferred from the Royal Navy College Greenwich to the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC) at the Defence Academy of the UK, Shrivenham:

Royal Naval College Greenwich Functions	Joint Services Command and Staff College Functions
Staff Training	Transferred to the new Joint Services Command and Staff College at Bracknell in 1997 and subsequently in 2000 to Shrivenham.

C. *Does (and how) does JSC (if at all) replicate courses originally run at RNCG?*

The table below shows which courses transferred:

Royal Naval College Greenwich Courses	Joint Services Command and Staff College Current Courses
RN Staff Course	Subsumed into Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC)*
RN Initial Staff Course	Initial Command and Staff Course (Maritime)
Joint Service Defence College	This college was not part of the RNCG but was located on the same site from 1983 to 1997 when it also merged with the single Service Colleges to form JSCSC. It was subsumed into the ACSC.

* Royal Navy Officers, Royal Marine Officers and Civil Servants attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course undertake a short Foundation Maritime Phase at the beginning of the course. Additionally, all Officers, including British Army and Royal Air Force undertake a 1-week module on Maritime Combat Power during ACSC along with modules on Land Power, Air Power, and Space and Cyber.

You may also be interested to know that the Special Duties Officer Greenwich Course (SDOGC) was transferred to the British Royal Navy College Dartmouth. Also, the Marine Engineer (Nuclear) course ran at the RNCG transferred to the Nuclear Faculty of the Defence Academy. The Nuclear Facility belongs to the Defence Academy but is not part of the JSCSC.

D. *Can you provide the numbers of Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Army personnel that have been trained on Joint Defence Command Staff Courses for every year since 1997?*

Please see table at Annex A.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you 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.gov.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,

JFD Secretariat

Annexes:

A. British RN, Army and RAF personnel attending JSCSC from 1997

BRITISH RN/RM, ARMY AND RAF PERSONNEL ATTENDING JSCSC 1997 TO DATE

Advanced Command and Staff Course and Higher Command and Staff Course:

Intake	RN/RM	Army	RAF	Total
2018	55	68	51	174
2017	51	71	54	176
2016	55	89	57	201
2015	55	89	58	202
2014	53	71	57	181
2013	54	81	57	192
2012	54	79	62	195
2011	57	78	72	207
2010	65	82	70	217
2009	64	87	72	223
2008	67	83	76	226
2007	64	88	77	229
2006	76	110	75	261
2005	62	118	72	252
2004	69	118	72	259
2003	69	117	71	257
2002	66	119	72	257
2001	69	118	71	258
2000	65	116	69	250
1999	66	112	69	247
1998	65	116	69	250
1997*	88	140	92	320

* The figures for 1997 also includes JDSC; this was the transition year.

The figures for the Intermediate Command and Staff Courses have been provided in a separate table as it only includes figures from 2010 due to incomplete records.

Intake	RN/RM	Army	RAF	Total
2018	169	514	1218	1901
2017	187	492	1093	1772
2016	183	506	1086	1775
2015	182	524	1135	1841
2014	200	472	1150	1822
2013	202	444	1013	1659
2012	216	366	992	1574
2011	244	382	1057	1683
2010	256	423	1251	1930

Please note: These figures have been produced by the Defence Academy, which does not constitute official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.