



# Ministry of Defence

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Mr David Gee  
request-634998-  
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12 February 2020

Dear Mr Gee

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

*“Can you please tell be a) How many soldiers aged i) under 18 and ii) 18 or over, joined the army in each of the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09; and b) For each year, how many soldiers in each age group had left the army ten years afterwards, and how many of those who remained were in each rank”.*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is in the PDF document attached. Please note that the table attached shows data for a cohort of individuals over the years you have requested.

Under Section 16 (Advice & Assistance), you may wish to note that the average progression time between ranks differs between Arm/Corps. Further information about career progression can be found at the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/591343/20170125-FOI\\_12734\\_12737.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591343/20170125-FOI_12734_12737.pdf)

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.uk](mailto: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,

SO2 Personnel  
Army Secretariat

**Question:**

"Can you please tell be a) How many soldiers aged i) under 18 and ii) 18 or over, joined the army in each of the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09; and b) For each year, how many soldiers in each age group had left the army ten years afterwards, and how many of those who remained were in each rank."

**Table 1: Regular Untrained Intake into the Regular Army Other Ranks and where they are 10 Years later**

Year Joined	FY 06/07 <sup>7</sup>		FY 07/08		FY 08/09	
	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18
<b>Age Group <sup>5</sup></b>						
<b>Total Intake <sup>1+2</sup></b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>6,670</b>	<b>4,720</b>	<b>7,650</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>8,430</b>
<b>Rank as at 1st April</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2018</b>		<b>2019</b>	
<b>Regular Other Ranks - Untrained and Trained</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1,850</b>
Private	70	90	100	160	110	230
Lance Corporal	220	290	270	400	250	420
Corporal	460	630	450	770	400	830
Sergeant	100	340	100	340	90	360
Staff Sergeant	-	30	-	40	-	20
Warrant Officer 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warrant Officer 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Commissioned Regular Army Officer - Untrained and Trained <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Transferred to another Serving Part of the Army - Untrained and Trained <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Left Army Strength <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>5,080</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>3,360</b>	<b>6,310</b>

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

**Notes/Caveats:**

1. Intake includes untrained other ranks in the Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves.
2. Intake figures are the occurrence of intake and therefore include some individuals who have entered into the Untrained Army more than once. The same person could appear over different years or the same year as both under and over 18.
3. Some Other Ranks are known to go direct to Sandhurst to complete officer training.
4. Other parts of the army include Called Out Reservists, FTRS, High Readiness Reserves, MPGS, Sponsored Reserves and Volunteer Reserves.
5. Age is calculated using an individuals date of birth and the date they entered Untrained strength as recorded on the Army Administrative System at the time.
6. Those no longer serving is an estimate, based on the total Intake minus those who are still serving ten years later and therefore represents all those who are no longer serving in any element of the Army.
7. Intake in financial year 2006/2007 is for an 11 month period from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007 due to the introduction of new Army Administration Process and therefore may not provide a direct comparison.

**Rounding**

Figures have been rounded to 10 for presentational purposes; 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. "-" denotes zero or rounded to zero.