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Ref: FOI2020/03974/05/04

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Ms Rachel Taylor
Email: request-652135-30a1deba@whatdotheyknow.com

19 June 2020

Dear Ms Taylor,

Thank you for your email of 17 March in which you requested the following information:

"The data you've linked to shows the drop-out numbers by year of outflow, but my question asked for the data by year of enlistment, which would give a very different result. Would you mind looking at it again, please?"

This was a follow up to your original question (request-652135-30a1deba@whatdotheyknow.com) dated 4 March which asked:

"How many soldiers who enlisted aged i) under 18, and ii) 18 or over, in each financial year 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18, dropped out of the army before completing their phase two training?"

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 table below.

The data below shows Under 18 and Over 18 recruits who did not complete their Initial Trade Training (Phase 2), split out into the year that they enlisted. Figures are provided by training year. Please note that this is not the same as the information provided to your original request, where data has been provided by the financial year of outflow split by age group on enlistment. Therefore, this data should not be compared with other figures.

	Army Outflow by Training Year 15/16	Army Outflow by Training Year 16/17	Army Outflow by Training Year 17/18
Under 18yrs	1360	1070	860
Over 18yrs	510	480	350

Notes/Caveats:

- This data has been provided from a single service source rather than official statistics produced by Defence Statistics as they do not collate this information.
- 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

- Please note that the 17/18 figures are not a complete cohort, as not all recruits that joined in that year will have all finished Initial Trade Training, due to the length of some training courses.

I apologise that it has taken slightly longer to reply than it would normally have done, but I hope you will understand this is because of the unusual circumstances in which we are currently working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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). 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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