



Ministry  
of Defence

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David Gee  
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10 August 2020

Dear Mr Gee,

Thank you for your email of 19 June in which you requested the following information:

*1) Can you please tell me what proportion of recruits entering the Army Foundation College, in the most recent year for which figures are available, were assessed to have reached each stage in a) literacy and b) numeracy skills, as per the standard bandings (Entry Level 1, 2, 3, Level 1, 2 etc.). I am asking about the assessment of literacy and numeracy that takes place before arrival to assess eligibility for enlistment, rather than at the end of training.*

*2) Can you please also tell me whether you collect data on the employment destinations of recruits who leave the Army Foundation College, by status (e.g. employed, in education, unemployed etc.), and if so, can you please send it to me?*

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 we hold some of information in the scope of your request:

Question 1:

Literacy and Numeracy levels of the intakes during the 2019/20 Recruiting Year to the Army Foundation College (Harrogate)

	Literacy	Numeracy
No Record	-	-
Entry Level1	-	-
Entry Level 2	110	70
Entry Level 3	310	390
Education proven. Exempt from tests	70	60
Level 1	710	820
Level 2	570	430
Total	1770	1770

### Notes/Caveats

1. 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.
2. "-" denotes zero or rounded to zero.
3. 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
4. Recruiting years run from 01 April – 31 March.

### Question 2:

I can confirm that the MOD does not hold any data on the employment destinations of personnel once they have left the Army Foundation College, Harrogate (AFC(H)).

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that it is not just formal qualifications that young people gain by attending AFC(H), they also gain life skills, increased self-esteem and self-confidence, communication skills, and in some cases the stability and opportunities which previously may have been inaccessible to them.

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,

*L Williams*

Manning Team, Army Secretariat