



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/09099/05/02

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk
Website: www.army.mod.uk

M Rao
AAi@yahoo.co.uk

30 August 2019

Dear M. Rao,

Thank you for your email of 05 August in which you requested the following information:

I was wondering if I could get some information on medical officer bursaries:

- 1. How many applicants apply for the medical officer bursary?*
- 2. How many applicants get to the interview stage after the Army Officer Selection Board?*
- 3. How many applicants are successful at interview to get the bursary?*
- 4. How many bursaries are available each year?*
- 5. Data for the above points for the past 5 years.*

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 information in scope of your request is held. Some of this information is exempt from release under section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in deciding to withhold the information.

Since the introduction of the Defence Recruitment System (DRS) in 2018, data has been recorded against differing criteria meaning that the figures are not directly comparable across recruiting years. It is not possible to filter Medical Officer (MO) applications from other Professionally Qualified Officer (PQO) roles, e.g. dental officer, veterinary officer and nursing officer. In addition, although this is the data held by the department, during the transition to the current recruiting system in 2018 some data was, unfortunately, lost. There are therefore some quite clear inaccuracies within this information.

Ser	Medical Bursaries	Recruiting Year 14/15	Recruiting Year 15/16	Recruiting Year 16/17	Recruiting Year 17/18	Recruiting Year 18/19
1.	Number of applicants for Army Medical Services (AMS) Bursaries all roles – not just MO	20	20	40	110	310
2.	Number who attended Army Officer Selection Boards (AOSB) all roles	-	-	-	-	50
3.	Number that passed AOSB all roles	-	-	-	-	50
3a	Number awarded (MO)	30	30	20	30	30
4.	Number available - Medical Officer (MO) only	44	44	44	44	44

Notes/caveats

- Figures have been rounded to 10 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality
- “-” denotes zero or rounded to zero
- Light shading denotes where data is incomplete/based on an amalgamation of 2 systems, prior to the successful introduction of DRS.
- Dark shading denotes where data is available from DRS for a full 12 month period.
- Please note that these figures are single service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

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,

L Williams
Manning Team, **Army Secretariat**