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Ref: Army/PolSec/FOI2024/00729

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Mr John Williams  
request-1071202-  
fd80cffd@whatdotheyknow.com

12 February 2024

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you for your email of 13 January in which you requested the following information:

*'Could you release the average age of British army recruits with a separate breakdown of male and female recruits.'*

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 attached.

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,

Workforce2  
Army Policy & Secretariat

## FOI\_00729\_Average age of Untrained Intake to Regular Army Other Ranks by Gender, 1 October 2016 to 1 October 2023

Question: 'Could you release the average age of British army recruits with a separate breakdown of male and female recruits.'

**Table 1. Average age<sup>4</sup> of Untrained Intake to Regular Army Other Ranks by Gender, 1 October 2016 to 1 October 2023**

Gender	Age
Total	20 years 8 months
Male	20 years 8 months
Female	20 years 8 months

Source: Analysis (Army)

**Notes/Caveats:**

1. The figures are for the Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. The figures are for Untrained Intake to Phase 1 training for Other Ranks only and therefore exclude Officers and Officer Cadets.
3. Gender is as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA).
4. The average displayed is a mean average and has been rounded down to the nearest full month. The mode age (the age of entry which occurs most often) for all Untrained Intake to Regular Other Ranks was 17 years old.
5. The minimum entry requirement age to join Regular Army Untrained Other Ranks is 16 and entrants can attest up until the day before their 36th birthday.
6. Figures are for all Untrained Intake for the 7 years preceding 1 October 2023.
7. Age is recorded as at the 1st of the month after untrained personnel have joined the Regular Army Other Ranks.