



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
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20170601-FOI 05369 JACKSON

Mr Paul Jackson [by email]
request-405881-7882961d@whatdotheyknow.com

8 June 2017

Dear Mr Jackson

Thank you for your email of 10 May, which has been considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000; I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

In your email you requested:

“I would be grateful if you could provide the following information on servicemen's careers in the Royal Air Force in the trades of:

- (1) Electrician
- (2) Vehicle + Mechanical Equipment Technician

In particular, I would be grateful if you would address the following:

1. How many applicants were there to the RAF in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to the trades:
 - (1) electrician
 - (2) vehicle + mechanical equipment technician (VMET)
2. How many were recruited to the trades of Electrician and VMET in the years 2014, 2015 and 2016?
3. Of those enlisted, what percentage successfully completed the trade training?
4. Please provide an indication of average career progression by length of service in each rank as well as the percentage chance of achieving each rank.
5. Please provide a breakdown of the current strength in the trades of Electrician and VMET by rank.
6. Please provide confirmation of the rates of pay prior to the New Model Pay Structure (2016) and the Supplement Rate that Electricians and VMETs are paid on.
7. What is the percentage chance of a recruit achieving a full engagement?
8. What is the percentage chance of achieving an extension of service to 30 years?”

A search has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The terms “electrician” and “vehicle + mechanical

equipment technician” are known as General Technician (Electrical) and General Technician (Mechanical), respectively. The requested information is held on a number of different databases, which utilise different recording procedures and date ranges. I will address each of your queries in turn:

Qs 1 and 2. The number of applications and intake into General Technician (Electrical) (Gen Tech (E)) and General Technician (Mechanical) (Gen Tech (M)):

	Recruiting Year 2014/2015		Recruiting Year 2015/2016		Recruiting Year 2016/2017	
	Applications	Intakes	Applications	Intakes	Applications	Intakes
Gen Tech (E)	396	60	334	61	*	32
	Applications	Intakes	Applications	Intakes	Applications	Intakes
Gen Tech (M)	563	60	402	92	*	78

* Information on the number of applications for 2016/2017 is exempt from release under Section 44 of the FOI Act (prohibitions on disclosure). Section 44 is a classed based absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (the duty to provide advice and assistance), the information for 2016/2017 is expected to be published in August 2017 as part of the overall applications received for all RAF trades, but is not published in the precise manner you have requested. You may wish to consider submitting a further request for this information after August 2017, when the information may be available.

Please note that the recruiting year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

Q3. The percentage successfully completing trade training (completed Phase 2 training) is:

General Technician (Electrical)	
	% Passed
1 January – 31 December 2014	88.6
1 January – 31 December 2015	86.2
1 January – 31 December 2016	98.2

General Technician (Mechanical)	
	% Passed
1 January – 31 December 2014	91.6
1 January – 31 December 2015	86.2
1 January – 31 December 2016	94.4

Qs 4 and 7. Please see the career projections at Annexes A and B.

Q5. As at 1 March 2017, the strength is as follows:

	Leading Aircraftman/ Aircraftman	Senior Aircraftman	Senior Aircraftman (Technician)	Sergeant	Chief Technician	Flight Sergeant	Warrant Officer	Under Training
Gen Tech (E)	10	70	110	40	20	-	-	60
Gen Tech (M)	10	90	260	110	40	-	-	110

Q6. Section 21 of the FOI act (information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant) has been applied to this element of your request. This information is publicly available in the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) report on the Gov.uk website, at the following address:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-pay-review-body-44th-report-2015

Under Section 16 of the FOI act (the duty to provide advice and assistance), page 51 of the report shows the pay scales for Other Ranks under Pay 2000. The associated footnote explains, under "Pay 2000", Trades at each rank are allocated to bands (higher or lower) according to their Job Evaluation score and thus single Trades can move between the 2 pay bands. Under "Pay 16", Trades are allocated pay supplements that individuals stay within throughout the course of their career and promotions within one Trade. General Technician Electrical are in supplement 2 and General Technician (Mechanical) are in supplement 2. The supplement break down is at the following link at page 57 and the pay scales are at pages 58 and 59:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/603494/58422_Armed_Forces_Pay_Web_Accessible.pdf

Q7. Please see Q4

Q8. This information is not held to provide an answer to your question. Extensions are offered on the basis of Service need at any one time and, therefore, cannot be calculated as a percentage chance.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact this office in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat