



Ministry of Defence

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Mr Kevin Bell-Walker
Email Address: request-594019-1bb738bb@whatdotheyknow.com

01 October 2019

Dear Mr Bell-Walker,

Thank you for your email of 31 July in which you requested the following information:

"I would be grateful if you could provide the following information on the REME

- 1) The % of VMs in the Artificer and Artisan career streams*
- 2) What is the overall % chance of being selected for Artificer training*
 - a) prior to PAAB*
 - b) post PAAB*
- 3) What is the criteria selection by ASCLB please breakdown merit/ seniority/other*
- 4) On average how many times is a candidate considered by ASCLB before being selected*
- 5) What % of Cpl's and Sgt's are selected*
- 6) Given that Artificer candidates can appear before the ASCLB on numerous occasions are a candidates chances enhanced or diminished by subsequent considerations?*
- 7) Given that candidates can appear on numerous occasions at ASCLB, is it accurate to assume after becoming eligible for ASCLB it is just a waiting list with selection almost a certainty?"*

Since then, you have clarified your question on 03 Sep, as below:

"I would be grateful if you could provide the requested information for the period 2014-2019 (or information you hold within those dates)"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that some information you requested is held by the Ministry of Defence and is attached.

In response to part 1, there are 86.2% of Vehicle Mechanics (VMs) in the Artificer and 13.8% of VMs in the Artisan (SSgt-WO1) career streams. Please note that everyone is in the same stream up until and including the rank of Sgt. Then they branch to either Artificer or Artisan.

In response to part 2a of your request, nobody is selected for Artificer training prior to Potential Artificer Assessment Board (PAAB). In response to part 2b, please see the below table showing the percentage of applicants post PAAB who are successful in being selected for Artificer training:

2017	45.6%
2018	46.5%
2019	49.4%

Please note that data from 2014- 2016 is not held by the Department.

In response to part 3, please find the criteria used by Artificer Selection Course Loading Board (ASCLB) below:

- PAAB/PAB (Provisional Artificer Board) pass;
- Class 1 for 1 year prior to the ASCLB;
- Recommendation for promotion and Artificer training in current Soldiers Joint Appraisal Report (SJAR);
- Artificer Maths pass;
- Artificer trade/Science pass;
- Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (JNCO) Command, Leadership and Management (JCLM) 1&3 already completed prior to the ASCLB.

Please note that the entry criteria for the different trades can vary depending on the manning levels. Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that all scores are placed on a score chart according to how many reports service personnel have had in that rank. Any Cpl/LCpl who was selected for promotion on the previous year's board to the next rank, would be placed in the higher rank section of the score sheet with NIL reports. Selection then takes place to select the highest achievers whilst also keeping a balance between Cpls and Sgts selected.

In response to part 4 of your request, I can confirm that this information is not held by the Department.

In response to part 5, please find below the percentage of Cpls/Sgts selected for Artificer training:

	Cpl	Sgt
2017	25%	75%
2018	30%	70%
2019	31%	69%

Please note that data from 2014- 2016 is not held by the Department.

In response to part 6 and 7 of your request, information is not held in the format requested. Under the Act a Public Authority is not required to create new information to respond to requests, if to do so would require significant data manipulation including complex analysis and sophisticated judgement to the extent that it can be considered 'new' information which is not currently held. Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that each ASCLB is competitive and totally separate from the previous years. Board members are not aware of scores selections from previous years or declining of cases. The board takes each report on its own merits and is looking to identify potential. Additionally, personnel may appear at the board multiple times, but not get selected. Therefore, candidates' chances are neither enhanced nor diminished.

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,

Manning Team 2
Army Secretariat