



Ministry  
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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**THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP**  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER  
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE AND VETERANS

PQW/17-19/2018/12379

1 November 2018

Further to your Questions (176502 and 176499) I promised to write to you with the information you requested. This is set out below.

In financial year 2015-16, 14,150 Regular soldier applications were made by candidates under the age of 18 at the time of their application. Of which, 2,440 subsequently started Basic Training.

Between 1 January and 1 September 2018 there have been 15,500 applications made by Regular soldier candidates under the age of 18 at the time of their application.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, please note that these figures are single service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely

**THE RT HON TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP**

Liz Saville Roberts MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

✓CPK



## Written Answer (Ministry of Defence) - 16 Oct 2018

Liz Saville Roberts MP  
House of Commons

**Liz Saville Roberts:**(1) To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people under 18 years of age applied to join the army in the financial year 2015-16; and how many of those people have since started army training. [176502]

**Liz Saville Roberts:**(2) To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people under 18 years of age applied to join the army between 1 January 2018 and 1 September 2018. [176499]

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

The information requested will take time to collate and I will write to the hon. Member when it is available.

16/10