PQW/19-21/2020/06526 23 June 2020

Dear John,

I promised to write to you following your Parliamentary Question 55867.

It is a matter of public record that the early years of the contract with Capita for Army recruiting were beset with significant difficulty. However, in 2018, fault was conceded by both parties, leading to a reset and the transformation of the Army/Capita strategic relationship under the Personnel Campaign Board (PCB). Progress made by the PCB is now yielding the desired results and during recruiting year 2019-20, the number of candidates loaded on to basic training courses across all streams was 9,700. Despite COVID-19 restrictions we expect a similar success in 2020-21.

A summary of the requested information is provided in the table below. A full breakdown by constituency for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019 is provided in the attached spreadsheet; however, the same breakdown for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 is not currently available.

**Intake to the Untrained Regular Armed Forces, 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2014-15** | **2015-16** | **2016-17** | **2017-18** | **2018-19** | **2019-20** |
| British Army | 7,850 | 8,100 | 7,620 | 6,680 | 6,560 | 9,700  |
| Royal Air Force | 1,860 | 2,180 | 2,010 | 2,050 | 2,270 | 2,480  |
| Royal Navy/Royal Marines | 2,900 | 2,950 | 3,000 | 2,980 | 3,070 | 3,520  |

**Notes:**

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with disclosure control policy. Figures ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid bias.

2. Parliamentary Constituency has been identified from Contact Postcode, as recorded in the Defence Recruitment System (DRS).

3. Figures are for untrained Regular personnel on intake, both Officers and Other Ranks.

4. Untrained Army inflow includes those people who joined as non-Trade-Trained. This will include people who have completed their phase 1 training (also known as basic training) and inflow direct into phase 2.

A copy of this letter and the associated spreadsheet will be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,



**JAMES HEAPPEY MP**