



Ministry of Defence

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MINISTER FOR VETERANS AND PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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PQW 37538

11 April 2025

Dear Derek,

I recently undertook to write to you with an answer to the following Parliamentary Question:

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what were the most frequent reasons for new applicants to the Army being refused on medical grounds in each year since 2020. 37538

Information regarding the most frequent reasons for new applicants to the Army being refused on medical grounds each year, since 2020 is set out below:

2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Psychiatry (mental health)	54%	Psychiatry	52%	Psychiatry	42%	Psychiatry	45%	Psychiatry	54%
Musculoskeletal	13%	Musculoskeletal	13%	Musculoskeletal	15%	Musculoskeletal	13%	Musculoskeletal	11%
Respiratory (breathing conditions)	6%	Neurological	6%	Dermatological	7%	Respiratory	6%	Eyes	6%
Dermatological	5%	Respiratory	5%	Neurological	6%	Dermatological	6%	Neurological	5%
Eyes	3%	Dermatological	5%	Respiratory	6%	Eyes	6%	Respiratory	5%
Neurological (nerve conditions)	4%	Gastrointestinal	4%	Gastrointestinal	5%	Neurological	6%	Gastrointestinal	4%
Gastrointestinal (digestive conditions)	4%	Other Conditions	4%	Eyes	5%	Gastrointestinal	5%	ENT	3%
ENT (ear, nose, and throat conditions)	3%	Eyes	4%	ENT	4%	ENT	4%	Other Conditions	3%
Other Conditions (not otherwise specified, including blood disorders, infectious disease, cancer etc)	3%	ENT	3%	Other Conditions	4%	Other conditions	3%	Cardiovascular	3%

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Cardiovascular (heart and circulation conditions)	2%	Cardiovascul ar	3%	Cardiovascul ar	3%	Cardiovascula r	3%	Dermatologi cal	2%
Renal_and_Urol ogical (kidney and bladder conditions)	1%	Renal_and_ Urological	1%	Renal_and_ Urological	2%	Renal_and_Ur ological	1%	Renal_and_ Urological	2%
Dental	0%	Reproductiv e	1%	Dental	1%	Dental	1%	Endocrine	1%
Reproductive	0%	Dental	0%	Reproductiv e	1%	Reproductive	1%	Reproductiv e	1%
Endocrine (hormone conditions)	1%	Endocrine	0%	Endocrine	0%	Endocrine	0%	Dental	0%

This information was provided by the Directorate of Army Recruiting.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,



ALISTAIR CARNS MP