

**ALISTAIR CARNS DSO OBE MC MP**  
Minister for Veterans and People

Our ref: PQW/24-25/2025/08531  
Your ref: 42980

9 May 2025

Dear Helen,

In my response to your Parliamentary Question UIN 42980 you were promised a written answer to the following question:

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the average number of months are between a service person enlisting and leaving the (a) Navy, (b) RAF and (c) Army; what the 2015 average number of months was between a service person enlisting and leaving the (a) Navy, (b) RAF and (c) Army; and what the 2020 average number of months was between a service person enlisting and leaving the (a) Navy, (b) RAF and (c) Army.

I am now in a position to reply. The information requested is outlined in the tables below:

Table 1. Average Length of Service (Months) on Outflow from the Untrained & Trained Regular Navy by Officer / Other Rank and Calendar Year, 2015, 2020, 2024:

Officer / Other Rank	Calendar Year		
	2015	2020	2024
Officers Exits	514	371	444
<i>Mean Length of Service</i>	213	209	218
<i>Median Length of Service</i>	192	188	221
Other Rank Exits	2,858	2,581	2,785
<i>Mean Length of Service</i>	116	97	121
<i>Median Length of Service</i>	83	58	81

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Table 2. Average Length of Service (Months) on Outflow from the Untrained & Trained Regular Army by Officer / Other Rank and Calendar Year, 2015, 2020, 2024:

<b>Officer / Other Rank</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2024</b>
Officers Exits (excludes Late Entry)	895	536	782
<i>Mean Length of Service</i>	192	182	191
<i>Median Length of Service</i>	160	156	165
Other Rank Exits	9,910	6,850	7,965
<i>Mean Length of Service</i>	99	90	109
<i>Median Length of Service</i>	72	56	77

Table 3. Average Length of Service (Months) on Outflow from the Untrained & Trained Regular RAF by Officer / Other Rank and Calendar Year, 2015, 2020, 2024:

<b>Officer / Other Rank</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2024</b>
Officers Exits	592	395	447
<i>Mean Length of Service</i>	229	263	257
<i>Median Length of Service</i>	206	247	255
Other Rank Exits	2,225	1,753	2,076
<i>Mean Length of Service</i>	186	174	172
<i>Median Length of Service</i>	144	143	143

Please note that, the figures are for the Trade Trained Regular, excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP). Figures show outflow from UK Regular Forces, they include outflow to civil life and outflow to other non-serving and serving parts of the Armed Forces. They do not include promotion from Ranks to Officers or flows between Services.

The Average Length of Service (LoS) has been rounded to the nearest whole month.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Carns', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**ALISTAIR CARNS MP**