



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 May in which you requested the following information:

1. *Do Soldiers have to reach a certain rank to convert from a 22-year (OE) to a 24-year (VEng) term of service?*
2. *Do Soldiers have to opt to convert to a 24-year term of engagement or are they invited to do so?*
3. *Do different capbadges have to reach different ranks to be able to convert from an OE to a VEng (Full)? If so, what are these ranks?*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and can be found below.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held. However, in order to be helpful in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, I have endeavoured to provide information in answer to questions one and two and have provided recorded information in answer to question three.

In answer to your first two questions, according to the needs of the Service, soldiers serving on an Open Engagement may be offered the option of converting to a 24 year Versatile Engagement (or longer). In some Capbadges there is a requirement to reach a certain rank to do so. Please see table below for further details:

Cap-Badge	Open / Notice to VEng (Full) ^[1]
RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All LCpls who are selected for promotion to Cpl will be offered VEng (Full)• Other offers will be made to meet specific manning requirements as stipulated by the RE Manning Brick, in consultation with APC, for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantive Cpl – WO1

R SIGNALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all substantive Cpls provided they meet the general Army criteria Offers will also be made to all Substantive Pte – LCpl who successfully pass the SF Communicators Course Other offers will be made on a quota basis depending on YoS, rank and trade as stipulated by the R SIGNALS Manning Brick
QG SIGNALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all Substantive Pte – Cpl who successfully pass the SF Communicators Course Other offers will be made on a quota basis depending on YoS, rank, trade and needs of the Service as stipulated by the R SIGNALS Manning Brick
Infantry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all substantive Sgts and above provided they meet the general Army criteria Other offers will be made only if specific manning requirements exist as stipulated by the Infantry Manning Brick
AAC Aircrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Sgt – WO1 A minimum SJAR grading of B Met the general Army criteria Individuals will be offered VEng (Long) if they are in YoS 20 - 21
AAC Ground-crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Cpl – WO1 A minimum SJAR grading of B Met the general Army criteria
RLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive LCpl – WO1 Met the general Army criteria Offers may be made to Pte soldiers who are recommended for promotion in 2015 based upon manning needs. Other offers will be made only if specific manning requirements exist as stipulated by the RLC Manning Brick
AMS: RAMC, RAVC, RADC , QARANC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Cpl – WO1 Class 1 A minimum SJAR grading of B Met the general Army criteria
AGC (SPS) CHRS / MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Cpl – WO2 Met the general Army criteria
AGC (SPS) AWW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Cpl – WO2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met the general Army criteria
AGC (RMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SSgts pre-selected for promotion to WO2 will be offered a conversion provided they meet the generic Army criteria
AGC (MPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel who successfully complete the Custodial NCO course and transfer to the MPS.
RAPTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers will be made to all personnel provided they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Sgt – SSgt Met the general Army criteria An EED that is beyond 20 Jan 15 and are not on continuance Offers will also be made to substantive Sgt – SSgt who successfully complete the Class One Physical Training Instructors course and transfer to the RAPTC

^[1] Where offers are accepted, Career Managers are to add an additional two years to the individuals current End of Engagement Date so that their engagement length is 24 years service from their 18th birthday or their date of attestation whichever is the latter

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Army Secretariat

