

Endnotes for 'Soldiers at 16: Sifting fact from fiction'

¹ See Child Soldiers International, *Louder than words: An agenda for action to end state use of child soldiers*, 2012, pp. 142-160, http://child-soldiers.org/global_report_reader.php?id=562.

² Ipsos MORI, *Nationwide poll conducted in July 2014 by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd*, http://forceswatch.net/sites/default/files/IPSOSsurvey2014-Forces_age.pdf. Poll question: 'In your opinion, what should be the minimum age to join the British army? Please answer regardless of whatever you believe the minimum age is at the moment.' Figures calculated from the poll findings by excluding the 'don't knows', at two per cent.

³ As the army still recruits about 2,000 16 and 17 year olds each year – about 80 per cent of the total – we focus on common misconceptions about the army in particular. (In 2012-13, the Army recruited 2,300 minors; in 2013-14, it recruited 1,770.) Ministry of Defence (MoD), *Annual Personnel Report* [2013, 2014 editions], <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-annual-manning-statistics-index>.

⁴ Private communication with Child Soldiers International, 2015.

⁵ As of 2015, the Education and Skills Act (2008) requires all young people aged 16 and 17 to continue to participate in education. Children in full-time employment must complete 280 guided learning hours of education annually, towards accredited qualifications. It is this part of the Act from which the armed forces are exempt. The exemption is specified in The Duty to Participate in Education or Training (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2013, SI 1205, <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/1205/regulation/8/made>.

⁶ Department for Education (DfE), *Wolf Review of Vocational Education: Government response*, 2011, p. 7. In addition, young people aged 16 and 17 who stay in civilian education must continue studying GCSEs in English and maths if they don't already have them at grade C or above. DfE, *Major reform will help hundreds of thousands of young people get good jobs*, 2013, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-reform-will-help-hundreds-of-thousands-of-young-people-get-good-jobs>.

⁷ For details, see Child Soldiers International, *Mind the gap: Education for minors in the British armed forces*, 2012, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=337.

⁸ The full list of learning outcomes from the army's Public Services Apprenticeship is: Maintain competence, knowledge and standards of conduct in public service; Work safely in public service; Work as a team member to deliver public service; Administer first aid; Use and maintain physical resources; Use communication systems in working contexts; Meet physical fitness requirements; Plan and navigate a cross country route; Operate and maintain small arms and team weapons; Perform ceremonial duties. Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards, *HM Forces (England): Apprenticeship framework*, pp. 18-19, <http://www.afo.sscalliance.org/frameworkslibrary/downloader.cfm?FRID=FR02016>.

⁹ In 2012-13, for example, 41% of enlisted minors joined the infantry, 9% joined the artillery, and 9% joined the armoured corps. Hansard. HC Deb, 10 June 2013, c10W.

¹⁰ Between 2010-11 and 2012-13, 36% of minors and 25% of adults who enlisted in the Army left during training, calculated as follows: Of those who enlisted in the army aged under 18, 1,050 dropped out of 2,400 recruits in 2010-11; 930 of 2,930 in 2011-12; 760 of 2,300 in 2012-13; total

2,740 of 7,630 = 35.9%. Of those who enlisted over 18, 1,710 dropped out of 5,640 recruits in 2010-11; 1,900 of 7,550 in 2011-12; 1,520 of 7,360 in 2012-13; total 5,130 of 20,550 = 25.0%. MoD, *Annual Personnel Report* [2012, 2013, 2014 editions], <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-annual-manning-statistics-index>; drop-out figures from Hansard: HC Deb, 13 May 2013 c99W.

¹¹ The proportion of young people successfully gaining GCSEs at grades D-G in both English and Maths at age 15 has increased from 90.0 per cent in 2005 to 92.9 per cent in 2012. The proportion gaining grades A*-C in both subjects at age 15 has also increased from 43.3 per cent to 50.9 per cent in the same period. The proportion of those who failed to gain grades D-G in both subjects at age 15 but who did so by age 18 has increased from 6.4 per cent in 2008 to 8.2 per cent in 2012. The proportion of those who failed to gain grades A*-C in both subjects at age 15 but who did so by age 18 has increased from 7.2 per cent in 2008 to 10.1 per cent in 2012. Hansard: HC Deb, 7 November 2013, c336W.

¹² The proportion of young people successfully gaining GCSEs grades D-G in both English and Maths at age 15 has increased from 90.0 per cent in 2005 to 92.9 per cent in 2012. The proportion gaining grades A*-C in both subjects at age 15 has also increased from 43.3 per cent to 50.9 per cent in the same period. The proportion of those who failed to gain grades D-G in both subjects at age 15 but who did so by age 18 has increased from 6.4 per cent in 2008 to 8.2 per cent in 2012. The proportion of those who failed to gain grades A*-C in both subjects at age 15 but who did so by age 18 has increased from 7.2 per cent in 2008 to 10.1 per cent in 2012. Hansard: HC Deb, 7 November 2013, c336W.

¹³ House of Commons Education Committee, *Apprenticeships and traineeships for 16 to 19 year-olds (Sixth Report of Session 2014–15)*, 2015, p. 7.

¹⁴ DfE, *NEET Quarterly Brief – January to March 2015*, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428492/Quarterly_Brief_NEET_Q1_2015_FINAL.pdf.

¹⁵ For every five soldiers under 18 recruited into the infantry each year, two previous infantry enlistees are leaving before they have completed four years' service. For example, in 2011-12, 1,270 minors joined the infantry; in 2012, 560 infantry recruits who had enlisted as minors left the Army. Hansard: HC Deb, 19 January 2015; HC Deb, 13 May 2013 c99w.

¹⁶ British army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, *JSP 575: Early Service Leavers, Guidance notes for resettlement staff*, 2010, <http://www.ctp.org.uk/assets/x/51978>. Buckman JEJ, Forbes HJ, Clayton T, Jones M, Jones N, Greenberg N, et al., 'Early Service leavers: a study of the factors associated with premature separation from the UK Armed Forces and the mental health of those that leave early', *European Journal of Public Health*, 2013, 23(3), pp. 410-415.

¹⁷ British Legion, *A UK Household survey of the ex-service community*, 2014, pp. xii, 63-64.

¹⁸ A Cunningham, *Government cadet programme cynically targeting the poor*, 31 July 2015, <https://www.alex cunningham mp.com/2015/07/government-cadet-programme-cynically-targeting-the-poor>.

¹⁹ D MacManus, K Dean, M Jones, et al., 'Violent offending by UK military personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan: a data linkage cohort study', *The Lancet*, 2013, Vol. 381, pp. 907–917.

²⁰ MacManus, Dean, Jones et al. (2013), op. cit. and D MacManus, K Dean, M Al Bakir, et al., 'Violent behaviour in UK military personnel returning home after deployment', *Psychological Medicine*, 2012, Vol. 42, pp. 1663–1673; D MacManus, R Rona, H Dickson et al., 'Aggressive and violent behavior among military personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan: Prevalence and link with deployment and combat exposure', *Epidemiological Reviews*, 2015, Vol., 37, pp. 196-212.

²¹ Calculated value from Table 1 in D Macmanus et. al. 'Violent behaviour in UK military personnel returning home after deployment', *Psychological Medicine*, 2012, Vol. 42, pp. 1663–1673.

²² D MacManus, K Dean, M Jones, et al., 'Violent offending by UK military personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan: a data linkage cohort study', *The Lancet*, 2013, Vol. 381, pp. 907–917.

²³ C Gabbett, cited in ForcesWatch, *Military recruitment*, 2015, http://www.forceswatch.net/what_why/whats_the_problem/issues?quicktabs_2=0.

²⁴ D Gee, *The Last Ambush: Aspects of mental health in the British armed forces*, 2013, <http://www.forceswatch.net/content/last-ambush>, pp. 26-27, 45-46.

²⁵ LA Hines, K Jawahar, S Wessely et al., 'Self-harm in the UK military', *Occupational Medicine*, June 2013;

AC Iversen, NT Fear, E Simonoff, et al., 'Influence of childhood adversity on health among male UK military personnel', *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 2007, Vol. 191, pp. 506-511; AC Iversen, NT Fear, A Ehlers, et al., 'Risk factors for post-traumatic stress disorder among UK Armed Forces personnel', *Psychological Medicine*, 2008, Vol. 38, pp. 511-522; MacManus, Dean, Al Bakir et al. (2012), op.cit.; MacManus, Dean, Jones et al. (2013), op. cit.

²⁶ 'Heavy drinking' refers here to drinking at levels deemed harmful to health. For details, refer to NT Fear, A Iversen, H Meltzer, et al., 'Patterns of drinking in the UK Armed Forces', *Addiction*, 2007, Vol. 102, pp. 1749-1759.

²⁷ Amnesty International, *United Kingdom: Army barracks deaths: Families demand justice*, 18 June 2003, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/108000/eur450042003en.pdf>.

²⁸ The Woodcraft Folk (District Fellows), *Military out of schools*, n.d., <http://www.spanthatworld.com/campaigns/military-out-of-schools>.

²⁹ Child Soldiers International and ForcesWatch, *Young age at Army enlistment is associated with greater war zone risks*, 2013, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=699. Note that there was no statistically significant finding with regard to soldiers who enlisted at age 17.

³⁰ Recruiters' instructions state that recruits aged between 16 and 16½ must be given jobs in combat roles (or join as drivers in the logistics corps) and that those under 16¼ must only be given combat roles. British army (Recruiting Group), *Eligibility Quick Reference Guide*, 2015, p. 8, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=827. For evidence of the over-representation of the youngest recruits in the infantry, refer to D Gee, *The Last Ambush*, op. cit., p. 57.

³¹ According to the MoD, Junior Entry recruitment (aged 16-17.5 years) 'presents an opportunity to mitigate Standard Entry (SE) shortfalls, particularly for the Infantry'. 'SE' refers to recruits aged 17.5 years and above. MoD, *Policy on recruiting Under-18s (U18)*, 2013, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Ref. FOI2015/00618, 12 February 2015, p. 2, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=817.

- ³² For sources and detail, refer to D Gee, *The Last Ambush*, op. cit., p. 57.
- ³³ D Gee, *The Last Ambush*, op. cit., p. 58.
- ³⁴ British army, *Initial Training Group Policy Document: Care for the Under-18s*, 2013, p. 5.
- ³⁵ Private communication with Child Soldiers International, 2014.
- ³⁶ British army, *Meet the army: a guide for parents, partners and friends*, 2014 (in use March 2015).
- ³⁷ Hansard: HC Deb, 9 February 2015 (223161); 24 March 2015 (227584).
- ³⁸ Queen's Regulations for the Army, 109.006.
- ³⁹ Private communication with Child Soldiers International, 2015.
- ⁴⁰ A soldier who enlists as a minor may not leave during the first six weeks; may then leave until six months have passed since enlistment, provided that 14 days' notice has been provided; and may then leave at three months' notice, provided that the recruit has not turned 18 when the notice is given. Normally, the soldier may not then leave the army until their 22nd birthday, at the earliest. Directorate of Manning (Army), *Terms and conditions of service*, April 2015, <http://www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/TermsOfService.pdf>.
- ⁴¹ Directorate of Manning (Army), *Terms and conditions of service*, op. cit.
- ⁴² Soldiers who enrol onto certain training courses may first be required to extend their minimum period of service.
- ⁴³ ITC Catterick figure derived by dividing by two the combined cost of Phase 1 and 2 training. Hansard: HC Deb, 2 September 2014, c214W.
- ⁴⁴ For sources, refer to endnote **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- ⁴⁵ MoD, *Army Junior Entry (JE) Training – Cost Benefit Analysis*, (ITG/JESG/Trg/11/09), 2014, http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/defence/140514-MoD_Junior%20Entry_CostBenefit_Analysis_REDACTED.pdf.
- ⁴⁶ Child Soldiers International and ForcesWatch, *Army recruitment: comparative cost-effectiveness of recruiting from age 16 versus age 18*, 2014, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=781.
- ⁴⁷ Child Soldiers International (2012), op. cit., pp. 142-160.
- ⁴⁸ HC Defence Committee, *The Armed Forces Covenant in Action? Part 4: Education of Service Personnel*, July 2013.
- ⁴⁹ Ministry of Defence, *JE vs SE project*, 2010, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Ref. FOI2015/00618, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=818, (Tables 8 and 9).
- ⁵⁰ Private communication with Child Soldiers International, 2015.
- ⁵¹ N Harvey, cited in Child Soldiers International, *Press Release: Bishops attack army on recruitment of minors while teen enlistment figures plummet*, November 2013, http://www.child-soldiers.org/news_reader.php?id=718.

⁵² Based on education provision at Army Foundation College (Harrogate), which consists of three Level 1 Functional Skills courses (English, maths, ICT), with the option of progressing to Level 2, and an apprenticeship in 'Public Services', which consists of basic soldier training and is not designed to support career progression outside the army. GCSEs are not available.

⁵³ Child Soldiers International and ForcesWatch (2014), op. cit.

⁵⁴ Child Soldiers International and ForcesWatch (2014), op. cit.

⁵⁵ This calculation is based on the army's intake to the trained strength in the 2013-14 financial year. Child Soldiers International and ForcesWatch (2014), op. cit.

⁵⁶ Child Soldiers International, *Letter to the Secretary of State for Defence*, 2015, http://www.child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=814.

⁵⁷ J Glen, *John Glen MP: Recruiting under-18s to the Armed Forces isn't good for them or taxpayers*, 22 March 2014, <http://www.conservativehome.com/platform/2014/03/john-glen-mp-recruiting-under-18s-to-the-armed-forces-isnt-good-for-them-or-taxpayers.html>.

⁵⁸ In 2011-12, 1,470 soldiers aged 16 were recruited in a total intake of 10,480. In 2011 there were 286,634 marriages, of which 126 involved at least one party aged 16. Hansard: HC Deb, 8 December 2014 (217017); Ministry of Defence, *UK Armed Forces Annual Personnel Report* (Table 7), 2012; Hansard: HC Deb, 8 December 2014 (217017).

⁵⁹ D Gee, *Informed Choice? Armed forces recruitment practice in the United Kingdom*, 2008.

⁶⁰ Information obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Ref. FOI2015/03426, 2015, http://child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=822.

⁶¹ R Pendleton, cited in C Atkins, 'Young British army recruits at higher risk of PTSD and suicide, says report' [video], *The Guardian*, 28 October 2013, <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/oct/28/young-british-army-ptsd-suicide-soldiers>.

⁶² Child Soldiers International (2012), op. cit., pp. 142-160.

⁶³ R Clarke et al., *Open letter to the Ministry of Defence on armed forces recruitment ages*, November 2013, http://www.child-soldiers.org/research_report_reader.php?id=717.

⁶⁴ Refer to footnote **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

⁶⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration Of Reports Submitted By States Parties Under Article 8 Of The Optional Protocol To The Convention On The Rights Of The Child On The Involvement Of Children In Armed Conflict: Concluding observations, United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland, (CRC/C/OPAC/GBR/CO/1)*, 2008, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC.C.OPAC.GBR.CO.1.pdf>.

⁶⁶ M Atkinson, 'UK soldiers of 16 "too young"', *Sunday Times*, 11 January 2015, http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Defence/article1505677.ece.