

*M933*  
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DCI RN 120 – 126  
1991



## Defence Council Instructions

# Royal Navy

*W. J. Gindan*

DCIs are automatically  
cancelled after one year

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
17 May 1991

## **123/91 Female Aircrew (U)**

[D/NMT 400/1/8: 83218MB]

1. Following the announcement by the Minister for the Armed Forces that opportunities now exist in Naval aviation for females, this DCI outlines the procedures for entry or, in the case of in-Service applicants, for transfer to aircrew duties. It is emphasized that female applicants for flying duties will be selected in competition with their male counterparts.

### **Officer aircrew (new entry)**

2. The recruiting, selection and career opportunities will be the same as those which currently exist for male aircrew and are laid down in Career Regulations (Flying Duties), Career Regulations (Education) and Career Regulations (Medical).

### **Officer aircrew (in-Service transfer)**

3. The guidelines for transfer within service for officers are contained in BR 8374, Article 0121. Exceptionally, however, WRNS Officers of all specializations who were in service prior to May 1991 (the earliest date on which female officers will be able to enter the RN with the ability to choose, prior to entry, a

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specialization that includes flying) may apply for transfer to flying duties provided they will be under 26 on 31 Dec 91. Officers should submit their applications in writing to their Commanding Officers by 31 Dec 91.

### Selection

4. Commanding Officers recommending candidates will arrange for their attendance at RAF Biggin Hill for Aircrew Aptitude Tests, and for those who are successful, examination by the Central Air Medical Board, Seafeld Park, to determine their fitness for flying duties. Arrangements for these tests should be made with the following quoting availability and whether or not accommodation is required:

Aircrew Aptitude Tests	—	AIB (OES)	Copy to MOD DNOA(X)
Aircrew Medical	—	CAMB	

On successful completion of these tests, Commanding Officers should forward applications to the Naval Secretary together with their recommendations and a special 5206 report. Those who pass both Aptitude Test and Medical Board will be considered by the MOD and may be provisionally selected for either Observer or Pilot training depending upon their aptitude and the requirements of the Service. Once provisionally selected for Observer or Pilot, officers will be required to take and pass Observer or Pilot grading before becoming eligible to commence flying training. Officers are to arrange grading through the Flag Officer Naval Aviation at RNAS Yeovilton (ext 5242). It should be noted that officers selected for Observer duties may not subsequently transfer to Pilot duties.

### Conditions of service

5. WRNS Officers of the Seaman specialization in-Service prior to May 1991 may have the requirement for a Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate prior to commencing flying training waived and a Seaman Officer who would be unable, on time grounds, to complete her Officer of the Watch Course before her 26th birthday may have this requirement postponed. (WRNS Officers must be no more than 27 at the commencement of flying training). WRNS Officers of the Seaman specialization who fail to complete flying training will be required to revert to Seaman duties and complete any outstanding courses and Return of Service liability in the Seaman Specialization.

6. WRNS Officers of all other Specializations in-Service prior to May 1991 who are selected for flying duties will be required to accept sea service liability and officers on an eight year Short Career Commission with a five year Break Point will be required to waive this. Officers who fail to complete flying training or are deemed unsuitable for sea service will be returned to their source specialization to complete any outstanding courses and Return of Service liability in that specialization.

7. All in-Service officers on an eight year Short Career Commission will be transferred to a 12 year SCC for Aircrew duties on successful completion of Operational Flying Training. Such officers will be required to waive their eight year Break Point Option. Officers will be subject to the Return of Service as laid down in BR 8373.

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### **WRNS ratings**

8. WRNS ratings in Service prior to May 1991 who wish to transfer to flying duties in the Pilot or Observer Specializations will be required to do so through the Upper Yardman Scheme. Details are contained in BR 8748, Chapter 11 the provisions of which now apply equally to female candidates.

### **Aircrewman**

9. The Aircrewman branch is a sideways entry branch and is open to candidates from all non-technician branches. Details of the qualifications required for transfer and the application process can be found in BR 1066, Chapter 15 the provisions of which now apply equally to female candidates.

### **Maintenance test pilots**

10. WRNS Officers of the Engineering specialization (AE Sub-Specialization) are eligible to apply for flying duties as Maintenance Test Pilots, and in the first instance should contact DNOA(E).