

**TERMS & CONDITIONS
AND GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING**

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER CADETSHIPS (AIR CORPS) 2026

IMPORTANT NOTE

A person who wishes to apply for this competition should read this document carefully prior to completing the application form. An application should only be submitted if the applicant is satisfied that they fulfil all of the governing conditions detailed in this document.

The acceptance by the Chief of Staff Defence Forces, of an application form from a person desiring to be a Defence Forces Officer should not be regarded as an admission by the Chief of Staff that such a person satisfies all or any of these conditions or that they are not disqualified by law from becoming an officer of the Defence Forces.

Everything contained in these conditions, notes and annexes is subject to the over-riding authority of the governing statutes, regulations and schemes, including the Defence Act, 1954 (as amended and extended) and statutory provisions made, or to be made, thereunder, and any other relevant provisions, agreements, legislation, public service policy, circulars and/or instructions and any errors which may appear herein are subject to correction at any time.

In addition, all terms and conditions outlined in this document are subject to change under the Defence Forces conciliation and arbitration scheme and public service agreements as may be concluded from time to time.

Appointments are open to all eligible candidates, on an equal basis.

Exceptions to the governing conditions cannot be made in individual circumstances.

Candidates, when completing their application form, will be required to confirm that they have not:

- *knowingly or recklessly provided false information*
- *canvassed any person with or without inducements*
- *impersonated a candidate at any stage of the process*
- *interfered with or compromised the process in any way*

CANVASSING WILL DISQUALIFY

NOTE FOR FUTURE COMPETITIONS

These conditions apply for the 2026 Cadetship Competition only and are due for review in advance of any future competition.

This document is divided into two sections. Section 1 details the governing conditions, rules and qualifications required for the award of Cadetships in the Defence Forces. Section 2 contains general information on the Cadetship on offer, together with details of pay and conditions of Cadets and Officers.

Cadetships may be available in the following:

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER CADETSHIPS (AIR CORPS)

Subject to the specific criteria being fulfilled as outlined below, applications may be made by the following:

GRADUATES

SCHOOL LEAVERS/NON-GRADUATES

SERVING PERSONNEL

SECTION 1

CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF CADETSHIPS IN THE PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE (AIR CORPS)

1. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for the award of a Cadetship, a candidate shall:

- a. at the time of application be-
 - (i) a citizen of the State,

or

be any other person who has a lawful entitlement to reside and work within the State for the period of enlistment required for the course of training as a cadet and, if subsequently commissioned as an officer, for the additional period that is required for the purpose of any such appointment.
 - (ii) Be of good character and satisfy any security clearance requirement.
- b. Be 18 years of age or above and under 39 years of age on the closing date for applications i.e., 8th March 2026

2. MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

a. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER CADETSHIPS (AIR CORPS)

School Leaver/Non-Graduate Candidates

Must possess a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers, and Grade O6 in 3 Ordinary level papers **or** Grade H7 in 3 Higher level papers.

Candidates must have obtained these grades in a single sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination for CAO computation purposes.

AND

A candidate's educational qualifications must include a minimum of Grade O6 at Ordinary Level or Grade H7 at Higher Level in the following subjects:

- (i) Mathematics
- (ii) Irish. NUI matriculation exemptions apply.

- (iii) English. Candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy the English language requirements in accordance with NUI Matriculations Regulations.

Subject to meeting the criteria to have obtained a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers **and** Grade O6 in 3 Ordinary level papers **or** Grade H7 in 3 Higher level papers, a candidate may use the results of another sitting of the Leaving Certificate for the minimum educational requirements in (i) to (iii) above.

Graduate Candidates must have successfully completed a bachelor's degree programme at Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Leaving Certificate Applied does not qualify for the Cadetship competitions.**
- **Where applicable, applications for Cadetships are invited from persons who have applied to sit for examinations in the competition year, which would enable them to satisfy the Minimum Educational Qualifications criteria, as specified above. Original documentary evidence that a candidate meets the minimum educational qualifications, as outlined above, must be presented to the relevant Interview Board Secretary. Applicants will be notified of a date via email when this evidence must be provided by.**
- **Candidates must provide documentary proof from the National University of Ireland, at Stage 1 of the selection procedure, for any educational exemptions. Further information is available on www.nui.ie**
- **To be eligible to apply for a Cadetship, holders of European and International qualifications must satisfy the Matriculation Registration requirements as outlined in the current "NUI Matriculation Regulations available on www.nui.ie**
- **The equivalent grades required for those candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate Examination prior to 2017 can be found at Annex E.**

3. MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL STANDARDS

Candidates must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect, abnormality, physiological condition or history of serious illness likely to interfere with the efficient performance of their duties. See Annex C and D (Laser Eye Surgery and Fitness Testing)

Air Traffic Control candidates are required to pass an Initial Class 3 aero-medical examination, the medical requirements for which are set out in Annex IV (Part ATCO.MED) of Regulation (EU) 2015/340.

In addition, the following are the minimum physical requirements:

a. Height

A candidates' height will be determined at the Medical Examination – see Para. 8. Weight and chest measurements must be in keeping with height and age.

Min. height: 157.48cm.

Note: BMI will be determined at Stage 2, the Assessment Phase of the competition

b. Vision

Colour vision must be normal. Both eyes must be free from disfiguring or incapacitating abnormality and free from acute or chronic disease. There must be no evidence of squint or latent squint.

The eligibility of applicants who have had previous incisional or laser treatment to correct visual acuity will be determined at the Medical Examination. Please see Annex C for further information.

Vision with or without optical correction, shall be 6/9 or better in each eye separately, and visual acuity with both eyes shall be 6/6 or better.

c. Dental

Candidates must be free from any serious periodontal disease and possess teeth to a specific standard, which is not less than the equivalent of eleven over eleven natural teeth functionally opposed. In certain circumstances, artificial teeth may be acceptable.

d. Hearing

A good standard of unaided hearing is essential. Candidates will be required to undergo an audiometric test at which:

- i. The sum of the hearing threshold at 1,2,3, 4 and 6 kHz should not exceed the age and gender related warning levels contained in the "Guidelines on Hearing Checks and Audiometry Regulations 2007", issued by the Health and Safety Authority.
- ii. Candidates under 25 years of age must be able to hear all measured pure tones up to and including 8 kHz at 20dB in each ear. Candidates aged 25 and older must be able to hear all measured pure tones up to and including 8 kHz at 25dB in each ear. Candidates must also be free from acute or chronic ear disorders.

Candidates are advised to avoid all sources of loud noise or music for a period of 48 hours prior to this audiometric test, as exposure to such noise may adversely affect the results of the test.

N.B. Candidates must satisfy the appropriate medical and physical standards and requirements as outlined above to remain in the Competition. In addition, successful Candidates will be required to undertake compulsory random drug testing throughout their career in the Defence Forces in accordance with Defence Force Regulation A7.

4. APPLICATION FOR CADETSHIP

Candidates must apply online at www.military.ie . Candidates wishing to undertake the assessments through Irish must make this request known to the Defence Forces Recruitment Section at recruitment@defenceforces.ie

All correspondence with candidates will be done by e-mail for the duration of the competition. Candidates should ensure the e-mail address given is accurate and correct.

Each application is acknowledged automatically by the system within 24 hours. If an acknowledgement is not received within 48 hours of applying, candidates should immediately contact the Defence Forces Recruitment Section at 045 492553 or at recruitment@defenceforces.ie

Likewise, if an applicant's email address should change, the onus is on the applicant to contact the Defence Forces Recruitment Section immediately advising them of the change of email.

Serving members of the PDF will be required to include their Service Number on the application form.

All Candidates who are invited to attend for the Assessment Phase of the competition, as outlined under Selection Procedure below, will be required to bring valid identification, i.e. Passport or Driving Licence as proof of identity.

In addition, graduate candidates and candidates who have sat their Leaving Certificate examination prior to 2024 will be required to bring original documentary evidence that they meet the minimum educational qualifications, as outlined above.

Candidates called to Stage 4 - the Interview - will be required to bring their long form Birth Certificate (Photocopies are not acceptable).

5. SELECTION PROCEDURE - AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER CADETSHIPS (AIR CORPS)

The following competencies have been identified as being essential for an Air Corps (Air Traffic Controller) Cadet. These competencies will be assessed throughout the various stages of the competition.

Competency	What the candidate will have to display
Planning and Organising	The ability to plan, prioritise and organise people and other resources.
Decision Making and Problem Solving	An ability to carefully analyse problems, in order to generate appropriate solutions. A preparedness to stand by a decision and to accept responsibility for its consequences.
Information Handling	The aptitude for absorbing information; to be able to identify relevant information.
Working with Others	An aptitude for working within a team environment; to be supportive of others.
Communication	Clear, concise and effective communication skills.
Leadership and Supervising	The ability and motivation to take responsibility for others; to co-ordinate and to delegate to others.
Personal Motivation and Discipline	A commitment to the Air Corps as a career. An ability to act on own initiative.
High Stress Tolerance	The ability to think and act under pressure, to be emotionally stable.
Resilience	Calmness when faced with conflicting demands and when working under pressure.
Physical Capacity	To meet the standards set for the Air Corps Cadet.
Technical Aptitude	The ability to absorb technical knowledge, a preference for the technical sphere of career development.
Maturity	Common sense for his/her age, the social maturity to sustain studies and absence from home.

Candidates, if selected, will be required to attend for the various stages of the selection procedure on the dates and times as notified by email. Candidates who fail to attend for any stage of the selection procedure will be disqualified from participation in any further stages of that competition.

Stage 1 – Online Psychometric Testing

Stage 1 of the selection procedure involves tests that measure a range of skills and qualities that are necessary in the job. These tests provide a consistent and suitable way of screening candidates at the initial stage of the selection campaign. These tests are designed to identify the most suitable people to go forward to the next stage of the Cadetship Competition. The tests have been designed so that they are fair to all applicants and are objectively scored.

Candidates will be required to complete an unsupervised psychometric test online within the timeframe specified by the Defence Forces. Candidates will be supplied with psychometric test familiarisation material to introduce them to the format of the tests.

Candidates who have attained the requisite score in the unsupervised online psychometric test, at Stage 1 will be required to attend for a subsequent supervised online psychometric test at Stage 2. If a candidate's performance at a supervised test is outside the expected scoring range from their unsupervised test at Stage 1, they may be excluded from subsequent stages of the selection process.

Candidates should pay particular attention to ensuring that the contact details specified on their application are correct.

Note: If a candidate fails to meet the minimum standard at Stage 1, they will not be permitted to proceed to the next stage of the competition.

Stage 2 – Military And Air Traffic Controller Assessments

Air Corps (Air Traffic Controller) Cadetship candidates who have attained the requisite score at Stage 1 of the competition, will be required to attend for Military and Air Traffic Controller Assessments as part of the Competition.

The Military Assessment will consist of the following:

- **Physical Fitness Test: To qualify for a Cadetship, candidates will be required to undergo a physical fitness test, which is designed to assess their potential to undergo the rigours of military training. Candidates must attain the minimum standard laid down to proceed in the competition (See Annex 'D' for details of the test and suggested training programme). Candidates' weight and height will be determined at this stage. Candidates must conform to the height and weight requirements to proceed in the competition. To reiterate, the physical fitness test is a prerequisite, and if a candidate fails the test i.e. receives a Red grading standard, they will not be permitted to proceed to the next stage of the assessment.**

- **Group Assessment:** Candidates will be required to participate in a group assessment.

The Air Traffic Controller Assessment: The aviation assessment for Air Traffic Controller candidates consists of specific computer-based psychometric tests which are supervised. Candidates will be supplied with test familiarisation material to introduce them to the format of the tests.

These tests comprise of two parts.

Part 1: FEAST Test (First European Air Traffic Controller Selection Test)
– duration 2hrs 20mins.

The Test Battery consists of a set of tests, which examine a candidate's ability with regard to a number of items including the following:

- Heading and Range Test
- English Listening and Comprehension
- Planning Ability
- Sort Task
- Alertness in Simple and Multi-Tasking Situations Test
- Visualisation Test

Part 2: DART Test (Dynamic ATC Radar Test) – duration 2hrs 10mins.

Applicants who obtain a sufficiently high standard on the Part 1 FEAST Test are called for Part 2 DART test, to be held later on the same day.

The DART Test is a computer-based aptitude test, aimed at measuring your multi-tasking abilities. The test will require you to perform a number of different tasks at the same time like in the job of an Air Traffic Controller. The test is designed for beginners with no background in ATC.

Candidates who achieve a sufficiently high standard in the Part 2 DART Test may be called for a group interview/exercise.

Personality Questionnaire

All candidates will be required to complete a personality questionnaire during the Stage 2 Aviation Assessment phase, for subsequent psychological review.

Realistic Job Preview

This will involve candidates interacting with Cadets and/or Officers of the Air Corps. This realistic job preview is not assessed.

Note: If a candidate fails to meet the required standards of the Military or Aviation Assessments, they will not be permitted to proceed to the next stage of the competition.

Stage 3 – The Interview

Successful candidates will be invited to attend a competency based final interview during which they will be required to demonstrate competency in the following areas:

- **Maturity**
- **Working with Others**
- **Leadership and Supervising**
- **Personal Motivation and Discipline**
- **Planning and Organising**
- **Communication**
- **Resilience**
- **Technical Aptitude**
- **Decision Making and Problem Solving**

In the competency-based interview, candidates will be asked to give examples from their own experiences of life, school, university, hobbies, work, pastimes, etc., to demonstrate evidence in several of the above areas. Candidates who fail any of the competencies at Final Interview will be deemed unsuccessful in the competition.

Feedback is available upon request. All requests for feedback must be received within 3 months of issuance of the individual's result.

6. BONUS MARKS.

Candidates who are members of the Defence Forces and who satisfy the requirements at paragraph 11(a) or 11(b) of these conditions will receive a % bonus mark of the total marks for the final interview. These bonus marks are as follows:

Serving NCO in the Permanent Defence Force	8%
Serving Private in the Permanent Defence Force	6%
Serving Officer or NCO in the Reserve Defence Force	3%
Serving Private in the Reserve Defence Force	2%

EU Regulation 2023/893 amending regulation replaced Aerodrome Control Instrument (ADI) with Aerodrome Control (ADC). The ATC Cadet syllabus uses the term ADC.

The process of awarding bonus marks may be subject to review in advance of future Cadet Competitions.

7. PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

The following personnel of the Defence Forces will be eligible for the award of additional marks as specified in paragraph 6 of these conditions:

- a. Members of the Permanent Defence Force who are serving on the date of commencement of interviews by the Final Interview Board.

Note: Before entering upon the prescribed course of Cadet training successful candidates who are Non-Commissioned Officers of the Permanent Defence Force will revert to the rank of Private Three Star.

- b. Members of the Army Reserve or the Naval Service Reserve who have been on the effective strength of their Units from 1 January, of the year previous to the competition year, and who continue to remain on such effective strength up to the date of commencement of interviews by the Final Interview Board, and who have Completed a course(s) of training or instruction amounting to a minimum total period of fourteen days, as prescribed in paragraph 40 of Defence Force Regulations R.5.

Note: Successful candidates who are members of the Army Reserve (AR) or Naval Service Reserve (NSR) must, before entering upon the prescribed course of Cadet training, tender the resignation of their commissions if they are Officers or be discharged from the AR or NSR if they are Non-Commissioned personnel.

8. EMPLOYEE VETTING BY AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA.

Candidates who are invited to attend before an Interview Board will be required to complete and sign a Garda Vetting Application Form. This will, pursuant to the Data Protection Act of 2018, authorise An Garda Síochána to furnish to the Military Authorities, a statement that there are no convictions recorded against the candidate or, if applicable, a statement of convictions.

9. MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

A panel will be formed from Candidates who are successful at interview. Candidates on this panel will be required to undergo and pass a detailed medical examination, which includes at a minimum: an audiometric test and pulmonary function tests, blood tests, an electrocardiograph, full ophthalmology review and chest X-ray.

Candidates who do not pass the medical examination owing to a medical condition that, in the opinion of the Examining Medical Officer, is capable of being remedied by treatment, may be afforded the opportunity of having the condition rectified ***within one week of their examination at their own expense***. Such candidates will be required to submit medical evidence indicating that the condition has been remedied.

They may be required to undergo further medical examination, by another Medical Officer. Medical fitness will not be confirmed until the results of all tests are available to the Medical Officer.

10. AWARD OF CADETSHIPS

The Minister for Defence, whose decision is final, awards Cadetships to successful candidates. The award of Cadetships will be subject to successful candidates passing a pre-enlistment medical examination that is in addition to the detailed medical examination as outlined at paragraph 8.

A candidate who is awarded a Cadetship must report for enlistment at the required time and place. Failure to report for enlistment will result in the Cadetship being forfeited.

11. EXPENSES

Candidates, other than a member of the Defence Forces, are liable for all expenses incurred in connection with their participation in the Cadetship competition and on reporting for enlistment.

12. TERMS OF ENLISTMENT

Candidates to whom Cadetships have been awarded, except for candidates who are already serving in the Permanent Defence Force, are enlisted for such periods as are necessary to complete the prescribed course of training.

13. OVERSEAS SERVICE

Under the terms of the Defence Amendment Act 2006, all Defence Forces personnel, if selected, are expected to serve overseas from time to time.

14. WITHDRAWAL OF CADETSHIP

A Cadetship will be withdrawn from a Cadet if:

- a. on completion of the prescribed course of training, they do not qualify for nomination by the Chief of Staff for appointment to be an officer and is not permitted to repeat any of the stages of the course or to extend the period of training; or

- b.** they fail to show satisfactory progress at any time during training or fail to develop the qualities requisite for the satisfactory completion of the course or if their conduct or service is unsatisfactory; or
- c.** because of examination by a Medical Board, appointed by the Director, Medical Branch, they are, at any time, found to be in a medical category lower than that prescribed; or
- d.** at their own written request: or
- e.** in the interests of the service.

A Cadet from whom a Cadetship has been withdrawn (except because of c. above) may, if they were a member of the Defence Forces before being awarded the Cadetship, be permitted to revert to their previous service engagement and rank or be discharged from the Defence Forces.

SECTION 2

CADETSHIPS IN THE DEFENCE FORCES

15. THE ROLES OF THE PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE

- To provide for the military defence of the State from armed aggression;
- To participate in multi-national peace support, crisis management and humanitarian relief operations in accordance with Government direction and legislative provision;
- To aid the civil power – meaning in practice to assist, when requested, An Garda Síochána, who have primary responsibility for law and order, including the protection of the internal security of the State;
- To contribute to maritime security encompassing the delivery of a fishery protection service and the operation of the State's Fishery Monitoring Centre and, in co-operation with other agencies with responsibilities in the maritime domain, to contribute to a shared common maritime operational picture;
- To participate in the Joint Taskforce on Drugs interdiction;
- To contribute to national resilience through the provision of specified defence Aid to the Civil Authority (ATCA) supports to lead agencies in response to major emergencies, including cyber security emergencies, and in the maintenance of essential services, as set out in MOUs and SLAs agreed by the Department of Defence;
- To provide a Ministerial Air Transport Service (MATS);
- To provide ceremonial services on behalf of Government;
- To provide a range of other supports to government departments and agencies in line with MOUs and SLAs agreed by the Department of Defence e.g. search and rescue and air ambulance services;
- To contribute to Ireland's economic wellbeing through engagement with industry, research and development and job initiatives, in support of government policy;
- To fulfil any other tasks that Government may assign from time to time.

The Defence Forces have a proud record of participation in Peacekeeping Missions and members of the Defence Forces are currently serving with approximately fourteen missions throughout the world.

THE AIR CORPS

The Irish Air Corps is the military air component of the Defence Forces. The Air Corps is tasked with a multitude of operational missions, operating both at home and abroad in support of the State. Tasks include Army and Naval Service support (including special forces support), the Emergency Aeromedical Support service, maritime security and defence operations, presidential and ministerial air transport, Garda air support, inter-hospital air ambulance, flood and snow relief, and airborne firefighting. Support of these daily operational outputs is achieved through a diverse range of specialised and intensive continuous training, with standards in all areas of training matched to or exceeding international best practice.

The current Air Corps aircraft fleet consists of eight Pilatus PC-9M fixed-wing training / light-strike aircraft, six AW139 medium-utility helicopters, a Learjet 45 ministerial transport aircraft, three Pilatus PC-12 ISR aircraft, one Pilatus PC-12 logistics aircraft, two Airbus Military C-295 aircraft, and two Airbus EC-135P2 light-utility helicopters. The Air Corps also operates two Airbus EC-135T2 helicopters and one BN Defender in support of An Garda Síochána.

16. AIR CORPS - AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES

Air Corps flying operations are supported by Military Air Traffic Services (ATS). Air Traffic Controllers, working in the control tower at Casement Aerodrome or in the civilian air traffic control centre at Dublin Airport, issue clearances to prevent collisions between aircraft and to ensure the safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic in military airspace.

Military Air Traffic Services (ATS) are responsible for the management and coordination of access to airspace for training, Maritime Defence and Security Operations (MDSO) Patrols, Garda Air Support (GASU), Army Support, Air Ambulance and Aid to the Civil Power missions. ATS also manage military airspace as a component of the wider European Military Airspace.

ATS provides contingent capability for major on-island security events including the development and enforcement of airspace restrictions. ATS staff also fulfil many other roles and functions for the Air Corps including ATC training, safety management, aerodrome management, airspace management, flight procedure design and the planning and control of aviation events. This is in addition to the managerial, supervisory and oversight function they perform as Officers and NCOs.

THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER CADET

The Air Traffic Controller Cadet will undergo a course of Cadet training of approximately 24 months' duration divided into four stages. Each stage must be successfully completed before the student can progress to the next stage. The purpose of Cadet training is to develop character and leadership skills and instil a sense of duty and responsibility in the Cadets and to qualify Air Traffic Controller Cadets as Aerodrome Controllers.

For cadets who have previously held an Irish Defence Forces ATC certificate of competence, a training needs analysis will be completed by the Military Air Traffic Services Training Officer for approval by the Chief Air Traffic Services Officer. The findings of this assessment will identify the stage 2 and 3 training required.

The training undertaken by the Air Traffic Controller Cadet is broken into the following elements:

Stage 1: Induction Training

The Cadet will complete Stage 1 of the Standard Cadet Course in The Cadet School, Military College, Curragh Camp. This will last approximately three months and incorporates basic military training and an introduction to military life. On successfully completing Stage 1, the Cadet will be posted to Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell, Dublin 22 for the commencement of the Air Traffic Control Training.

Stage 2: Initial ATC Training

Stage 2 of training involves three elements:

- a. Basic ATC Training
Theoretical and simulator training designed to impart fundamental knowledge and practical skills related to basic operational procedures.
- b. Aerodrome Control (ADI) Rating Training
Theoretical and simulator training designed to impart knowledge and practical skills related to an Aerodrome control rating.
- c. Approach Control Procedural (APP) Rating Training
Theoretical and simulator training designed to impart knowledge and practical skills related to an Approach Procedural control rating.

Stage 2 of training lasts approximately six months and may take place at an ATC training provider in Ireland or abroad in accordance with EU Regulation 2015/340.

Stage 3: Unit ATC Training

Unit Training takes place at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell and lasts approximately fourteen months. This training consists of theoretical, simulator and live training. It ultimately leads to the issue of an air traffic controller certificate of competence and an Aerodrome control rating endorsement. It comprises the following phases:

- a. Flight Data Assistant (FDA) Training
Theoretical and simulator training designed to impart fundamental knowledge and develop practical skills related to the role of Flight Data Assistant at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell.
- b. Aerodrome Control Transitional Training
This phase of training enhances the rating routines and skills acquired during Stage 2 by imparting knowledge and understanding of operational procedures and task-specific aspects of air traffic control at Casement Aerodrome. This prepares the student for live traffic situations which may be encountered during live on-the-job training.
- c. Aerodrome Control On-the-Job Training (OJT)

This is the final phase of unit training during which previously acquired specific routines and skills for ATC at Casement Aerodrome are integrated in practice under the supervision of a qualified on-the-job training instructor in a live traffic situation.

Stage 4: Command, Leadership and Organisational Training

This stage takes place at Casement Aerodrome and lasts approximately one month. Stage 4 prepares the Cadet to transition from a trainee to an Officer in the Defence Forces.

Upon successful completion of Stage 4 and on the recommendation of the General Officer Commanding the Air Corps, the Air Traffic Controller Cadet will be commissioned as an officer in the Permanent Defence Forces as outlined below in paragraph 17. A Cadet who does not pass any part of training may be discharged from the Defence Forces.

17. APPOINTMENT TO COMMISSIONED RANK

A Graduate Cadet who satisfactorily completes the prescribed course of military and Air Traffic Control training and who passes such examinations and tests as may be laid down will be eligible for appointment as a commissioned officer in the Air Corps rank of Lieutenant in the Air Traffic Services Stream.

A non-Graduate Cadet who satisfactorily completes the prescribed course of military training and who passes such examinations and tests as may be laid down will be eligible for appointment as a commissioned officer in the Air Corps rank of Second Lieutenant in the Air Traffic Services Stream.

On being commissioned as a Lt or 2/Lt, Young Officers will be required to undergo further Air Traffic Controller training. Follow-on training may include:

Duty Air Traffic Control Officer (DATCO) Course.

Classroom, simulator, and live training of approximately one-month duration at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell.

Approach Radar (APS) Rating Course.

A classroom and simulator-based course of approximately 10 weeks' duration, which may take place at an external ATC training provider in Ireland or abroad.

Approach Radar Rating OJT.

Live On-the-Job training of approximately 12 months' duration at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell.

An Officer who fails to complete all the elements of post-commissioning ATS officer training may be posted to the Administration and Logistics Stream in the Air Corps and they will no longer be eligible to receive Air Traffic Controller allowances or flying pay.

18. THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION/UNDERTAKINGS/FEES

Tuition and examination fees in respect of Cadets/Officers attending 3rd Level Institutions will be met from public funds. Textbooks, instruments etc., will be made available without charge but will remain the property of the Minister for Defence. During attendance at college, Cadets/Officers will normally be accommodated in Military Barracks and will be in receipt of normal pay and allowances.

Air Traffic Controller Cadets are required to complete a written undertaking, that in the event of their resignation or voluntary retirement from the Permanent Defence Forces, before the expiration of the time specified by the Minister (four years), they will refund the amount set by the Minister in respect of the cost of training. This amount includes the total pay and allowances paid while undergoing air traffic control training, costs of tuition and training, costs of the use of equipment during training and all other charges arising from training as an air traffic controller.

Air Traffic Control Officers undergoing training to Air Traffic Controller Watch supervisor standard will be required to complete a written undertaking that, in the event of their resignation or voluntary retirement from the Permanent Defence Forces, before the expiration of the time specified by the Minister, they will refund the amount set by the Minister in respect of the cost of training. This amount includes the total pay and allowances paid while undergoing Air Traffic Controller training, costs of tuition and training, costs of the use of equipment during training and all other charges arising from training as an air traffic controller.

In addition, Commissioned Officers who undertake certain courses, which are undertaken at public expense, will be required to subscribe to an undertaking (or undertakings), copies of which are available on request, that before leaving the Permanent Defence Force voluntarily at any time after they have commenced the course and before they have served in the Defence Forces for a minimum number of years reckoned from the date of completion of their third level training, they will refund the cost of such training to the Minister for Defence including the cost of pay and allowances paid to them during the period of attendance at the course.

Payment of the amount involved, including the cost of any pay and allowances paid to them during the attendance at the course, must be made in full and up-front i.e. before the actual date of their retirement. However, in every case, the granting of

permission to a Commissioned Officer to retire or resign from the Defence Forces is a matter for the appropriate authority in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Defence Act.

19. PAY, ALLOWANCES & PRSI

- a. Pay and Allowances, see Annex A.

It should be noted that the payment including the rate of payment of these allowances are subject to review and adjustment on an ongoing basis under Government policy.

- b. On enlistment to the PDF (see paragraph 12) Cadets are initially liable to pay PRSI contributions at the Class H rate. On appointment as an Officer (see paragraph 17, they pay PRSI at the Class A rate. In both cases, they are covered for the range of benefits under the Social Insurance code, including the State Pension (Contributory) subject to meeting the qualified criteria under the Social Welfare Acts – see paragraph 20 and Annex B.
- c. Method of Pay: Cadets and Officers are paid monthly by means of electronic funds transfer to a designated financial institution.

20. RETIREMENT BENEFITS

This should be read in conjunction with **Paragraph 19 (Pay, Allowances and PRSI)** and **Annex A and B**.

Members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) may qualify for retirement benefits (also called *superannuation benefits*), provided they meet certain terms and conditions. The superannuation arrangements for members of the PDF are *defined benefit* pension schemes.

The main benefits are:

- **a retirement pension,**
- **a retirement lump sum (gratuity) or death in service lump sum, and**
- **spouses'/civil partner's and children's contributory pensions.**

Pension contributions are payable by the scheme members from their Defence Forces salary towards their retirement and dependant's benefits.

In general, Cadets joining the PDF and who are commissioned as Officers may, subject to certain conditions, qualify for payment of retirement benefits from age 50 (*minimum pension age*).

Membership of the relevant pension scheme is compulsory. The specific pension scheme that applies to PDF personnel depends primarily on the date the person joins the PDF and on whether the person is joining the Public Service for the first time.

In general, anyone joining pensionable public service employment on or after 1 January 2013 is a member of the **Single Public Service Pension Scheme**. This scheme applies to all military personnel who join the PDF from **1 January 2013 onwards** as first-time new entrants to the public service. Those arrangements are provided under the *Public Service (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012* ('the Single Scheme').

For those who are not eligible for membership of the Single Scheme the following arrangements apply:

- (i) For personnel who join the PDF as *new entrants* on or after 1 April 2004 and before 1 January 2013, they will be members of the DF Post-2004 Scheme. Their arrangements are generally governed by the *Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004* (the 2004 Act).
- (ii) Where a person joining the PDF is not a new entrant as defined:
 - under the 2012 Act (see paragraph (a) above); or
 - under the 2004 Act (see paragraph (b)(i) above),

the Pre-April 2004 Defence Forces superannuation scheme and arrangements apply.

Annex B below gives more detail on the different pension schemes and their terms.

21. ANNUAL LEAVE AND HOLIDAYS

Annual leave to the extent of 31 days may be granted to Cadets and Junior Officers. Senior Officers (Commandant and higher ranks) may be granted 43 days leave in accordance with the provisions of Defence Force Regulation (DFR) A.11.

It should be noted that this annual leave provision is currently calculated on a 7-day basis. Leave entitlements may be subject to review and adjustment.

22. SICK LEAVE

Sick Leave may be granted in accordance with the provisions of Defence Force Regulation A.12 (Medical Treatment) and Defence Forces Regulation S.3 (Pay and Allowances).

It should be noted that the sick leave provision is currently being reviewed as part of a wider review and standardisation of sick leave in the Public Service generally and, in that regard, may be subject to adjustment on an ongoing basis in accordance with changes applicable across the Public Service as per Government policy.

23. PROMOTION AND RETIREMENT

Subject to the terms of Defence Forces Regulations, Officers are eligible for consideration for promotion through the commissioned ranks. The age for retirement of Officers is 62 for ranks up to Major General and 63 years of age for Lieutenant General (subject to review).

Rank	Retirement Age
Second Lieutenant/ Lieutenant	62
Captain	62
Commandant	62
Lieutenant Colonel	62
Colonel	62
Brigadier General	62
Major General	62
Lieutenant General	63

24. UNIFORMS AND ACCOMMODATION

A Cadet is issued uniforms and accessories. Commissioned Officers receive a grant, in accordance with the scales laid down, to assist towards the cost of providing themselves with uniform and equipment. An allowance is currently paid to a Commissioned Officer towards the purpose of replenishing their kit.

It should be noted that the allowance provided for on commissioning, shall be paid based on a submission by the officer of certified receipts up to but not exceeding the value of the initial allowance to the Finance Branch, Department of Defence, Ranmore, Galway. The initial allowance is exempt from taxation, while the replenishment allowance paid in subsequent years is subject to taxation under the taxation arrangements in place at the time, currently 40% is taxable and 60% not taxable.

A Cadet is entitled to accommodation and meals without charge subject to the terms of Defence Forces Regulations. Single Living-In Commissioned Officers may be

provided with official accommodation, in respect of which a deduction may be made from pay.

25. MEDICAL ATTENDANCE AND HOSPITAL TREATMENT

Primary health care i.e. medical attendance at and treatment by a doctor or primary care medical team in the Defence Forces, including e.g. physiotherapy, routine dental treatment etc., some limited in-house secondary care and the provision of medication prescribed by a Medical Officer, are provided without charge, subject to any limitations as required by law.

In accordance with Defence Force Administrative Instructions, cadets who develop a medical condition preventing them from continuing or completing their cadetship, may be referred by the Defence Forces Medical Officer or the attending doctor for secondary treatment as a private patient to a consultant or for private treatment in hospital, subject to financial sanction and any other limitations as required by law. The medical service provided to members of the Defence Forces is by nature an occupational medical service and as such, services such as cosmetic surgery (where such does not arise from occupational injury), etc. are not provided.

26. PAY AND ALLOWANCE - BENEFIT IN KIND

The tax status and taxation of any benefit, payment or allowance paid to members of the Defence Forces is a matter between the individual taxpayer and the Revenue Commissioners and must be disclosed by the individual to the Revenue Commissioners. The Department will not be liable for the financial impact, positive or negative, of any change in the tax status of any current payment, allowance or benefit paid or made available to members of the Defence Forces, or any determination of their tax status, as may be directed by the Revenue Commissioners from time to time.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES ETC.

1. In line with Department of Finance instructions of 23 December 2010, starting pay will be at the minimum of the scale. The rate of remuneration may, be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy.
2. The following are the current rates of pay, which apply to Cadets with effect from 01 February 2026

Officers Pay: Rate 1 - Cadets	Current Rates of Pay w.e.f 1 February 2026
Point	Personal Pension Contribution (PPC) scale Full PRSI (Class A)
1st	€26,248
2nd	€28,817
3rd	€32,094
4th	€35,044
5th	€39,026

Where enlisted personnel take up a cadetship and where the 1st point of the scale is lower than the current value of the soldier pay plus any continuous allowances then the cadet will be placed on an off-point rate. On commissioning the officer will be placed on the appropriate point of that pay scale or will continue the off-point rate, whichever is greater. This off-point rate will continue to be paid until incremental progression allows for convergence with the established pay scale rates.

3. On enlistment to the Permanent Defence Forces, Cadets are generally liable to pay PRSI contributions at the Class H rate. On appointment as an Officer (see paragraph 17), they are generally liable for the Class A PRSI rate. In both cases, they are covered for the range of benefits under the Social Insurance code, including the State Pension (Contributory) – see also paragraph 20 and Annex B.
4. In general, persons commissioned as Officers following completion of a Cadetship under this competition, will qualify for the following rates of pay and allowances:

Current Officer Pay Rate with effect from 01 February 2026

Rank	Service	Basic Salary (Rate 1)	Military Service Allowance	Total Pay
2nd Lieutenant	On appointment	€39,858	€6,501	€46,359
	After 1 year in the rank	€43,766	€6,501	€50,267
Lieutenant	On appointment	€45,247	€6,501	€51,748
	After 1 year	€45,924	€6,501	€52,425
	After 2 years	€47,346	€6,501	€53,847
	After 3 years	€48,795	€6,501	€55,296
	After 4 years	€50,389	€6,501	€56,890
	After 5 years	€51,862	€6,501	€58,363
	After 6 years	€53,370	€6,501	€59,871
	After 7 years	€54,238	€6,501	€60,739
	After 8 years	€55,531	€6,501	€62,032
	After 9 years	€56,850	€6,501	€63,351

Military Service Allowance

In addition to basic pay, Military Service Allowance is payable to Officers holding the commissioned ranks of Second Lieutenant/Lieutenant Air Corps.

Additional Pay and Allowances - Air Corps Air Traffic Control Officers

The following Air Traffic Control allowances are paid to ATC officers who are suitably qualified and endorsed:

Current Air Traffic Control Allowances	Rate per annum
ATC Assistant	€1,932
ATC Aerodrome Controller	€2,896
ATC Aerodrome & Approach Radar Controller	€9,652
ATC Aerodrome and Approach Radar Controller and Watch Supervisor	€18,185

Flying Pay (ATC)

Air traffic control officers are required to engage on duties, which require to be carried in the air from time to time, and are entitled to flying pay of **€1,596** per annum, after qualification as an Aerodrome Controller.

It should be noted that the payment including the rate of payment of these allowances are subject to review and adjustment on an ongoing basis in accordance with changes applicable as per Government policy.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) may qualify for occupational pension and retirement gratuity (i.e. superannuation benefits) subject to certain terms and conditions. The specific defined benefit superannuation arrangements that apply to PDF personnel depend primarily on when the person joins the public service for the first time. Further details are set out below, and these should be read in conjunction with Paragraphs 19 and 20, and Annex A.

The main benefits under the PDF superannuation schemes are:

- **an occupational pension,**
- **a retirement gratuity (lump sum) or death in service gratuity, and**
- **spouses'/civil partner's and children's contributory pensions.**

- (a) **The new Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme") applies to all military personnel joining the PDF as first-time new entrants to the public service on or after 1 January 2013.**

This is provided for under the *Public Service (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012* (the 2012 Act). This new scheme applies to:

- Persons joining the public service as first-time new entrants from 1st January 2013 onwards; and
- Where appropriate, former public servants returning to the public service from 1 January 2013 onwards, after a break of more than 26 weeks and not under the same contract of employment.

Retirement benefits are based on 'career average earnings' (not final salary). For PDF personnel, a minimum pension age of 50 applies. This means that occupational pension and gratuity (lump sum) will not normally be payable immediately on discharge/retirement unless the person serves to age 50. Where leaving the PDF before age 50, benefits are preserved and generally payable in line with, and linked to, the social welfare State Pension age (currently age 66). Retirement benefits under the Single Scheme are contributory. A 7.5% employee superannuation contribution applies to PDF personnel (see Note 1 below); and occupational pension is subject to *integration* with the Social Insurance system.

Single Scheme – summary of main elements for PDF members

- It is a *defined benefit* scheme based on *Career-Average Earnings*.
- Retirement benefits – pension and lump sum – are primarily based on % of *pensionable earnings* throughout your public service career as a Single Scheme member.
- PDF members pay a 7.5% employee contribution from salary towards their Single Scheme benefits, as well as an *Additional Superannuation Contribution* (ASC) – see **Notes 1 and 2**.
- Each year, you build up money amounts on a *fast accrual* basis towards your Single Scheme retirement benefits. The total of these amounts at retirement, with some adjustments for increases in inflation, determines what your retirement benefits will be.
- Single Scheme retirement benefits are payable immediately on retirement from the PDF only if you serve to the *minimum pension age* of 50, and have the *vesting period of 2 years*¹.
- If you finish employment with the PDF before age 50 and have the vesting period, payment of your retirement benefits is normally *deferred* to age 66. (Age 66 is the qualifying age for *Contributory State Pension* (CSP)² from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection).
- Retirement pension (but not lump sum) is *integrated* with the Social Insurance system – see paragraph (b).
- There is no cap on the length of time over which members can build pension benefits under the Single Scheme.
- Transferring retirement benefits to Single Scheme from other employments:
 - The option for a member of the Single Scheme to transfer-in benefits from private sector pension schemes is not available at present.
 - If, before joining the Single Scheme, you hold deferred retirement benefits from previous employments under a ‘pre-2013’ Public Service pension scheme, you cannot transfer those benefits to the Single Scheme. Those benefits remain to be administered under your earlier pre-2013 pension scheme.

¹ The *vesting period* for the Single Scheme is 2 years, the minimum length of time you must pay employee contributions into the scheme before becoming eligible for retirement benefits.

² The current qualifying age for all State Pensions is 66.

- If you hold deferred benefits under the Single Scheme from an earlier Single Scheme employment, you do not need to arrange for their “transfer” because it is the same Single Scheme in place across the Public Service.
- There is provision for immediate retirement benefits if compulsorily retired on medical grounds, and for death in service benefits (dependents pensions and death lump sum).
- Following retirement, increases to Single Scheme pension are linked to inflation.

(b) **For those who are not eligible for membership of the Single Scheme the following arrangements apply:**

(iii) For personnel who join the PDF as *new entrants* **on or after 1 April 2004 and before 1 January 2013**, their arrangements are governed by the *Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004* (the 2004 Act). Their pension scheme provides for a ‘minimum pension age’ of 50. This means pension and gratuity (lump sum) will not normally be payable immediately on discharge/retirement from the PDF unless the person serves to age 50. Maximum retirement benefits generally accrue over 30 years. Where leaving the PDF before age 50, benefits are not payable immediately but are preserved and payable from age 60. Benefits are based on total pensionable service (subject to a maximum of 30 reckonable years) and pensionable pay at discharge/retirement date. Occupational pension is subject to *integration* with the Social Insurance system. In the case of commissioned officers, a 6.5% employee superannuation contribution is payable (see Note 2 below).

(iv) **Where a person joining the PDF is not a new entrant as defined:**

- **under the 2012 Act (see paragraph (a) above); or**
- **under the 2004 Act (see paragraph (b)(i) above),**

the pre-April 2004 Defence Forces superannuation arrangements apply.

For commissioned officers who are new joiners to the public service **on or after 6 April 1995 but before April 2004**, and who are subject to PPC pay scales and full PRSI (Class A), a gratuity is payable on retirement after 5 years’ qualifying service, while pension and gratuity are payable after 12 years’ service. * There is no preservation. Benefits, which are payable immediately on retirement, and regardless of age, are based on retiring rank, service and other factors such as pensionable pay. A 6.5% employee superannuation contribution is payable (see Note 2 below); and occupational pension is subject to *integration* with the Social Insurance system.

*For commissioned officers who join **prior to 6 April 1995**, apart from pension contributions and integration, the same general occupational pension scheme terms apply as for post-April 1995 officers. However, **pre-6 April 1995** officers are on non-PPC pay scales. Therefore, they do not pay 'main scheme' pension contribution towards occupational pension and gratuity but pay a dependants' benefit contribution only (see Note 3 below). They are insured for modified PRSI (Class C) and their occupational pension is not subject to integration.

PRSI status, integration with Social Insurance system, pension contributions etc.

New entrants to the public service on or after 6 April 1995, including commissioned officers in the PDF, are insurable for full PRSI. Both employers and employees make PRSI contributions, which in turn entitle scheme members to Social Insurance benefits.

On that basis, their occupational (or spouse's / civil partner's) pension is subject to **integration** with the State Social Insurance system in accordance with standard public service arrangements. This means that their entitlement to the range of Social Insurance benefits (including the State Pension Contributory (SPC)) is taken into account when calculating the amount of occupational pension payable. In an integrated pension scheme, the State Pension etc. is viewed as part of the total pension package payable to the individual.

This means the retirement pension is adjusted (reduced) from the start by a Social Insurance State Pension *offset*³, regardless of whether the person has reached Contributory State Pension age). Integration applies to retirement pension and also to employee contributions, but not to retirement lump sum.

A Contributory State Pension (CSP) becomes payable upon reaching the qualifying age. The *Public Service (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012* (the 2012 Act) does not currently provide for the payment under the Single Scheme of a 'supplementary retirement pension' in the period between Defence Forces mandatory retirement age and State Pension age.

(a) Employee pension contributions:

Note 1 –All successful candidates from this competition will be required to pay appropriate employee pension contributions from monthly pay towards their superannuation benefits at standard public service rates.

Note 2 – The 7.5% Single Scheme contribution is comprised of 4.2% of *net pensionable remuneration* (which means pensionable remuneration less twice the maximum rate of State Pension Contributory payable from time to time to a person who has no adult or child dependants) plus 3.3% of pensionable remuneration.

Note 3 – The 6.5% contribution for 'pre-Single Scheme' members who join the public service from 6 April 1995 onwards is 3.5% of *net pensionable remuneration* (towards

³ The current value (at January 2026) of the Contributory State Pension (CSP) reduction is €299.30 per week

personal pension) plus 1.5% of pensionable remuneration (towards retirement gratuity) plus 1.5% of pensionable remuneration (towards spouses / civil partner's and children's pensions).

Note 4 – A contribution of 1.5% of pensionable remuneration is payable by pre-6 April 1995 officers towards spouses / civil partner's and children's pensions.

Note 5 – Subject to certain exemption thresholds, all Public Servants who are in pensionable employment – including members of the PDF – are also liable to pay an *Additional Superannuation Contribution* (ASC). The ASC is separate from the standard employee pension contributions mentioned above. No additional superannuation benefits are earned because of the ASC. The ASC applies to pensionable earnings above certain thresholds at different bands and % rates depending on the pension scheme applicable to the member. From 1 January 2020, the ASC bands / rates are as follows:

Additional Superannuation Contribution	
All Public Servants who are members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme	Fast Accrual members of pre-2013 Public Service Pension Schemes
First €34,500 of pensionable earnings – exempt	First €28,750 of pensionable earnings - exempt
Next €25,500 @ 3.33%	Next €31,250 @ 10%
Balance @ 3.5%	Balance @ 10.5%

(b) Declarations:

Under the *Public Service (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012* (the 2012 Act), candidates are required to declare:

- any prior Public Service employment, or
- any pre-existing entitlements to a Public Service retirement benefit (whether already paid, in payment or deferred), or
- any existing remuneration from any other Public Service employment, or
- any such employment in which they received a payment-in-lieu of pension for that service.

(c) Pension abatement:

The following pension(s) will be immediately **subject to abatement*** in accordance with the relevant Defence Forces pension scheme rules and/or Section 52 of the *Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012* (the 2012 Act):

- i) any Defence Forces occupational pension that is currently in payment to the applicant, or that comes into payment to him/her during the period of re-employment, and

- ii) any other civil or public service occupational pension already in payment to the applicant, or that comes into payment to him/her during the period of re-employment.

**Suspension, reduction or otherwise as the case may be.*

The abatement outcome will depend on factors such as a person's ongoing overall earnings from the public service by way of salary plus pension.

(d) Pension accrual:

In addition, if the candidate was previously employed in the public service, the 2012 Act also limits the amount of qualifying service which can be accrued in existing (pre-2013) pension schemes to a maximum of 40 years' service across all Public Service employments. This may have implications for any new recruit/appointee who has already acquired pension rights in a previous Public Service employment.

(e) Further information:

Further information on pension arrangements for officers of the Defence Forces can be found on the Department of Defence website at;

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/f65fb1-defence-forces-pension-information/>

and

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/2a3969-pension-schemes/> - see officers booklets

See also the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform website at;

<https://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/> and,

<https://singlepensionscheme.gov.ie/for-members/scheme-information/scheme-booklet/#> - see booklet for Fast Accrual (Uniformed) Members

LASER EYE SURGERY

Applicants, for whom any one or more of the following criteria apply, will be deemed unfit to join the Permanent Defence Force:

- (a) Applicants who have had their visual acuity corrected by non-laser surgery or laser surgery involving the raising of a corneal flap
- (b) Applicants who have had corrective laser surgery not involving the raising of a corneal flap, within 12 months of the advertised closing date for receipt of applications
- (c) Where there continues to exist, beyond one year of corrective laser surgery not involving the raising of a corneal flap, significant visual impairment or side effects related to the surgery, or both
- (d) Where, following corrective laser surgery not involving the raising of a corneal flap, the residual corneal stromal thickness is less than 300 microns.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST.**PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST**

The physical fitness assessment is designed to test the candidate's current level of physical fitness and their capacity to undergo the rigours of military training. It is composed of two aspects:

- a. Components of physical fitness, consisting of body composition assessment.
- b. Local muscular endurance and aerobic endurance.

FORMAT OF THE DEFENCE FORCES INDUCTION FITNESS TEST (DFIFT)**BODY COMPOSITION ASSESSMENT**

This assesses the candidate's body composition. The candidate will undergo a body mass index (BMI) test and an assessment of body fat % will be assessed using skin calliper test (if necessary). Candidates who score > or equal to 30 on the BMI test must undergo a skinfold calliper test. Candidates who score in excess of 70mm (Males) or 80mm (Females) on the skinfold calliper test will **not** be permitted to continue with the test.

All tests are conducted in sports gear. Candidates are advised to bring the following should they be requested to attend tracksuit, shorts, singlet or t-shirt, training shoes, towel, and wash gear etc.

Candidates who wish to prepare for the above tests should do so under the guidance of a qualified instructor.

AEROBIC ENDURANCE

Candidates will be required to run one and a half miles (2.4km) within the time limit below: (This is a pass or fail test)

Remarks	Males	Females	Distance
Green: test pass	<11 mins 40 sec	<13 mins 10 sec	2.4km
Amber: test pass	<12 mins 45 secs	<13 mins 50 sec	2.4km
Red: test fail	>12 mins 45 secs	>13 mins 50 sec	2.4km

A **'Green'** grading reflects the candidate passing the DFIFT and results in the candidate progressing to the next stage of the competition.

An **'Amber' grading reflects a reduced aerobic capacity. PRE 2017 EQUIVALENT LEAVING
CERTIFICATE GRADES**

An applicant inducted with an amber grading will be required to pass the Defence Forces Fitness Test (part 2/run) during stage 1 of the Cadet Training Course (initial 12 weeks). Cadets must pass the Defence Force's fitness test in order to be approved and recommended for commissioning as an officer of the Permanent Defence Force.

A **'Red'** grading reflects the candidate has failed the DFIFT.

An applicant who achieves an **"amber"** result in their aerobic capacity (run) test may be considered for induction into the Defence Forces, should the HR demand exist. Applicants inducted under these circumstances will be required to pass the Defence Force Fitness Test (part 2/run) during stage 1 of the Cadet Training Course (initial 12 weeks).

LOCAL MUSCULAR ENDURANCE

This will be assessed using push-ups and sit-ups. The time allowed is 60 seconds (This is a pass or fail test).

	Males	Females
Push-ups: (Minimum requirement)	20	20 (modified)
Sit-ups: (Minimum requirement)	20	20

If a candidate fails to meet any of the above minimum requirements, they will not be permitted to proceed to the next stage of the competition.

Suggested 4 Week Training Programme for Cadetship Applicants.

Week	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
1	15 min Warm up. Steady Run for 20 Mins. Record your distance. 15 min Cool down. Push Ups 5 sets x 5 reps. Sit Ups 5 sets x 5 reps. Stretch.	15 min Warm up. Tempo Training. 4 x 5 min runs with 2 min recovery. Record your distance. 15min Cool down Stretch.	15 min Warm up. Steady Run for 20 Mins. Record your distance. 15 min Cool down. Push Ups 4 sets x 7 reps. Sit Ups 4 sets x 7 reps. Stretch.
2	15 min Warm up. Tempo Training. 3 x 6 min runs with 2 min recovery. Record your distance. 15min Cool down. Push Ups 4 sets x 7 reps. Sit Ups 4 sets x 7 reps. Stretch.	15 mins Warm up. Steady Run for 25 Mins. Record your distance. 15 min Cool down. Push Ups 4 sets x 7 reps. Sit Ups 4 sets x 7 reps. Stretch.	15mins Warm up Tempo Training. 2 x 10 Min runs with 2 min recovery. 15mins Cool down. Push Ups 3 sets x 10 reps. Sit Ups 3 sets x 10 reps. Stretch.
3	15 mins Warm up. Steady Run for 30 Mins. Record your distance. 15 min Cool down. Push Ups 3 sets x 12 reps. Sit Ups 3 sets x 12 reps. Stretch.	15mins Warm up Tempo Training. 2 x 1 mile/1600 m runs with 2 min recovery. Record your time. 15mins Cool down. Push Ups 3 sets x 15 reps. Sit Ups 3 sets x 15 reps. Stretch.	15 mins Warm up. Steady Run for 2 Miles. Record your time. 15 min Cool down. Push Ups 2 sets x 17 reps. Sit Ups 2 sets x 17 reps. Stretch.
4	15mins Warm up Tempo Training. 2 x 1 mile/1600 m runs with 2 min recovery. Record your time. 15mins Cool down. Push Ups 2 sets x 20 reps. Sit Ups 2 sets x 20 reps. Stretch.	Pre-Test Rehearsal. Push Ups-20 Repetitions/1 Min. Sit Ups-20 Repetitions/1 Min. 1.5-mile run-Timed. Males-11 min 40 sec. Females-13 min 10 sec.	Recovery session. Allow sufficient recovery time between this session and your test date.
5.	20 push-ups (1 Min) 20 sit-ups (1 Min) 1.5mile run (Males - 11 min 40 sec, Females - 13 min 10 sec)		

Points to Note

This Programme is a suggested training programme. You are under no obligation to undertake it. You do so at your own risk.

- a. This programme presupposes a certain level of fitness. **If in doubt talk to your GP.**
- b. **Step 1**-Invest in proper training equipment particularly a good pair of runners.
- c. **Step 2**-Talk to a Defence Forces PTI (Physical Training Instructor) or a fitness expert. Get them to help you to tailor this generic programme to suit your ability/lifestyle. Get them to help you with your technique with Push-ups and Sit Ups. Videos of correct push ups and sit up technique are available online at www.military.ie
- d. **Step 3**-Mark out a safe route of 1.5 miles/2.4km.
- e. **Step 4**-Get a stopwatch to time your runs.
- f. **Step 5**-Set your goals.
 - **Run**-11 min 40 sec Males/13 min 10 sec Females to achieve a green result.
 - **Push Ups**-20 Repetitions in One Minute.
 - **Sit Ups**-20 Repetitions in One Minute.
- g. **Warm Up**
 - Warm up properly before every session.
 - Exercises: Jogging, fast feet, high heels, high knees and high knee skip.
 - Try to keep warm up specific to the activity you are doing.
- h. **Heart Rate Intensity**: To achieve the required intensity of exercise, use the simple formula.
 - Example.
 - $220 - \text{your age} = 220 - 20 = 200$.
 - $75\% \text{ of } 200 = 150 \text{ Beats per minute}$.
 - This is your target Heart Rate to improve your Cardio-Vascular Endurance) *(Required Intensity).

- Check your HR pre and post exercise.

i. Cool Down:

- Just a general reduction in pace to decrease blood flow to the activated muscles.

j. Stretching:

- Stretching is very important pre and post exercise.
- Stretch all major muscle groups and show particular attention to the muscles that are involved in the activity.

k. On the Day:

- Arrive on time at the test centre.
- Eat 2/3 Hours prior to the Test.
- Bring a snack to the Test Centre to stay refuelled.
- STAY HYDRATED. Sip water all day.

- l. If you are in any doubt about your fitness levels to undertake this programme, see your doctor first.**

PRE 2017 EQUIVALENT LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADES

Annex E

The following table details the equivalent grades required for those candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate Examination prior to 2017, to meet the Minimum Educational Qualifications as detailed in Paragraph 2:

Pre- 2017 Leaving Certificate Grading Scale	Current Leaving Certificate Grading Scale
A1	H1/O1
A2	H2/O2
B1	
B2	
B3	H3/O3
C1	H4/O4
C2	
C3	
D1	H5/O5
D2	
D3	
E	H6/O6
F	H7/O7
	H8/O8

