



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2015/05946

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Email: [REDACTED]

September 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 July 2015 requesting the following information:

1. Please state the amount spent by the MoD on providing boarding school education to children of service personnel, and the numbers of children that this related to for the 2014/15 financial year.
2. For the last financial year (2014/15) can you provide me with the numbers of children given such an education for each rank of the armed services?
3. For the last financial year (2014/15) please state how many children were educated at the following schools with the assistance of the Continuity of Education Allowance? (i) Eton, (ii) Winchester, (iii) Roedean, (iv) Fettes, (v) Radleigh, (vi) Wellington and (vii) Gordonstoun.
4. For the 2014/15 financial year please provide me with a list of the 25 schools where the MoD had the biggest spend in relation to the Continuity of Education Allowance. Please provide the name of the school and the amount the MoD spent at the school to provide, subsidised places for MoD employees' children.
5. What are the maximum that can be claimed annually under the various categories of the Continuity of Education Allowance?"

This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

I will answer each part of your request in order:

Q1. Please state the amount spent by the MoD on providing boarding school education to children of service personnel, and the numbers of children that this related to for the 2014/15 financial year.

Continuity of Education Allowance is provided to eligible Service Personnel (SP) to assist them in achieving continuity of education for their children that would otherwise be denied in the maintained day school sector if their children accompanied them on frequent and consecutive assignments.

This may be claimed for service children from the beginning of the academic year in which they reach the age of 8 until the end of the stage of education during which they reach the age of 18 providing the Service Person meets the eligibility criteria. Continuity of Education Allowance claimants must be accompanied by their immediate family at their duty station and any child for whom Continuity of Education Allowance is claimed must complete the stage of education at the school for which the allowance has been claimed.

Continuity of Education Allowance was reviewed as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 following which improvements in governance achieved a reduction of costs by around £20 million per annum along with an associated reduction in claimants. Work continues to reduce the cost of the allowance.

During Financial Year 14/15, Continuity of Education Allowance was paid in respect of 5,800 children at a total cost of £84.5M.

You may wish to access the following link which was recently published on the parliament website:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3879>

Q.2 For the last financial year (2014/15) can you provide me with the numbers of children given such an education for each rank of the armed services.

Continuity of Education Allowance is available to all SP irrespective of rank subject to them satisfying the eligibility criteria, the overarching principals of which are accompanied service and educational continuity. Currently, the ratio between officer and other rank claimants is around 60:40.

During Financial Year 14/15, the numbers of children for whom Continuity of Education Allowance was claimed, by the rank of the claimants were as follows:

Rank	Single Service Equivalent			Approximate Total Children
	RN	Army	RAF	
Other Rank 2	Able Seaman	Private	Junior Technician	50
Other Rank 3		Lance Corporal		70
Other Rank 4	Leading Hand	Corporal	Corporal	300
Other Rank 6	Petty Officer	Sergeant	Sergeant	450
Other Rank 7	Chief Petty Officer	Staff Sergeant	Flight Sergeant	500
Other Rank 8		Warrant Officer 2		340
Other Rank 9	Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer 1	Warrant Officer	230
Officer 1	Sub Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Flying Officer	~
Officer 2	Lieutenant	Captain	Flight Lieutenant	590
Officer 3	Lieutenant Commander	Major	Squadron Leader	1,030
Officer 4	Commander	Lieutenant Colonel	Wing Commander	1,300
Officer 5	Captain	Colonel	Group Captain	610
Officer 6	Commander	Brigadier	Air Commodore	220
Officer 7	Rear Admiral	Major General	Air Vice Marshal	70
Officer 8	Vice Admiral	Lieutenant General	Air Marshal	10

Officer 9	Admiral	General	Air Chief Marshal	~
Total				5,800

Q3. For the last financial year (2014/15) please state how many children were educated at the following schools with the assistance of the Continuity of Education Allowance? (i) Eton, (ii) Winchester, (iii) Roedean, (iv) Fettes, (v) Radleigh, (vi) Wellington and (vii) Gordonstoun.

For FY14/15 the number of children attending the above mentioned schools in the context of Continuity of Education Allowance were as follows:

School	Total Children
Eton	20
Winchester	~
Roedean	~
Fettes	30
Radley	20
Wellington	10
Gordonstoun	20

Q4. For the 2014/15 financial year please provide me with a list of the 25 schools where the MoD had the biggest spend in relation to the Continuity of Education Allowance. Please provide the name of the school and the amount the MoD spent at the school to provide, subsidised places for MoD employees' children.

During Financial Year 14/15 the 25 schools where spend on Continuity of Education Allowance was the greatest in respect of SP children were as follows:

SCHOOL	Approximate Total £
Queen Ethelburga's College - York	3,880,000
Clayesmore School/Clayesmore Prep School - Blandford Forum	2,240,000
Royal Hospital School - Ipswich	1,980,000
The Duke of York's Royal Military Academy - Dover	1,980,000
Royal Alexandra & Albert School - Reigate	1,480,000
Kingswood School - Bath	1,310,000
Bromsgrove School - Bromsgrove	1,305,000
Dauntsey's School - Nr Devizes	1,300,000
King's College - Taunton	1,280,000
Dean Close School - Cheltenham	1,220,000
Hazlegrove Preparatory School, Yeovil	1,200,000
Gordon's School - Woking	1,150,000
Barnard Castle School - Barnard Castle	1,130,000
Forres Sandle Manor School - Fordingbridge	1,120,000
Wycliffe College - Stonehouse	1,110,000

Stamford Endowed Schools - Stamford	1,000,000
Warminster School - Warminster	1,000,000
Licensed Victuallers School - Ascot	980,000
King's School (Bruton)	960,000
Monkton Combe School - Bath	930,000
Monmouth School - Monmouth	920,000
Kingham Hill School - Chipping Norton	910,000
St John's College - Southsea	889,000
Taunton School - Taunton	870,000
St Lawrence College - Ramsgate	860,000

Service Personnel may select from a wide variety of schools across the United Kingdom from within the independent and state maintained sectors. In order to be admissible for the purposes of Continuity of Education Allowance, a school must offer full boarding facilities and be: registered with the appropriate UK education department; subject to Ofsted inspection and, in the case of independent schools, they must be a member of an organisation affiliated to the Independent Schools Council or the Scottish Council for Independent Schools.

Q5. What are the maximum that can be claimed annually under the various categories of the Continuity of Education Allowance?

It is a condition of Continuity of Education Allowance that the claimant must make a minimum parental contribution of at least 10% of the boarding and tuition fees in respect of each child for whom they claim the allowance. Any outstanding fees following receipt of the allowance maxima must be met by the claimant.

The maximum that may be claimed for each category of Continuity of Education Allowance are as follows:

Education Allowance	Approximate Max Allowance (per annum) £
CEA (Board) - Senior	20,000
CEA (Board) – Junior	15,200
CEA Special Educational Needs Addition (SENA)	30,000
CEA (Day) – Senior	12,000
CEA (Day) – Junior	9,000
CEA SENA (Day)	19,000
CEA (Guardians)	1,230
Day School Allowance (North Wales)	18,000

The boundary between Junior and Senior rates of CEA depends on the school, however, generally, Junior rates of CEA are paid for children in Years 3 to 6 while senior rates are paid for children in Years 7-13.

Please note – In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five.

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, 1st Floor, 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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat