



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2015/08928

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██████████
Email: ██████████

21 October 2015

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 13 October 2015 requesting the following information:

“I would like to know what percentage of Armed Forces Continuity of Education Allowance claimants are single parents.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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

As of Summer Term 2015 there were 3,200 Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) claimants of which around 230 are regarded as single parents.

- The family status of Service personnel (SP) is defined by the use of Personal Status Categories (PStat Cats). SP are classified by one of the following P Stat Cats:
 - P Stat Cat 1 – Married Accompanied by their spouse/civil partner or would be but for the demands of the Services.
 - P Stat Cat 2 – Have parental responsibility within the terms of the Children Act 1989 for a child and are the centre of and the prime mover in the child’s life. SP in PStat Cat 2 may have been divorced/separated or widowed or not previously have been married or in a civil partnership.
 - P Stat Cat 3 – A member of the Armed Forces who provides financial support for their spouse/civil partner, former spouse/civil partner, or dependent child by voluntary agreement.
 - P Stat Cat 4 - A member of the Armed Forces who provides financial support for their spouse/civil partner, former spouse/civil partner, or dependent child under an order made by a court, Child Support Agency arrangement or the MOD under the relevant Service Act.
 - P Stat Cat 5 – All other members of the Armed Forces.
- The CEA claimants regarded as single parents are classified as P Stat Cat 2.

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