



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence

Main Building

Whitehall

London

SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2018/01793

[REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

10 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2018 requesting the following information:

“How much did the Ministry of Defence spend on the Continuity of Education Allowance and the Boarding School Allowance for each of last three years?

How many children were in receipt of each allowance for each of last three years?

How much has the department spent on each allowance for children attending each of these schools (a) Charterhouse School, (b) Dulwich College, (c) Eton College, (d) Harrow School, (e) Marlborough College, (f) Rugby School, (g) Westminster School, (h) Winchester College, (i) Merchant Taylor's School, (j) St Paul's School, (k) Fettes College and (L) Gordonstoun School (M) Shrewsbury?”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I apologise for the time taken to respond to your request.

Following a search of our records I can inform you that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request. The details you requested are set out in this response, in the order of the FOI request.

Part 1. How much did the Ministry of Defence spend on the Continuity of Education Allowance and the Boarding School Allowance for each of last three years?

The amount spent on Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) was as follows:

2014/15 £84.5M 2015/16 £80.9M 2016/17 £80.0M¹

The amount spent on Boarding School Allowance (BSA) was as follows:

2014/15 £579,895 2015/16 £538,017 2016/17 £400,406

CEA is provided to eligible Service Personnel 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.

Each claimant is required to make a contribution of at least 10% of the fees.

The allowance 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.

CEA claimants must be accompanied by their immediate family at their duty station and any child for whom CEA is claimed must complete the stage of education at the school for which the allowance has been claimed.

CEA was reviewed as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 following which improvements in governance achieved a reduction of costs by around £30 million per annum along with an associated reduction in claimants. Work continues to reduce the cost of the allowance.

BSA is only available to eligible civil servants who are posted overseas.

Part 2. How many children were in receipt of each allowance for each of last three years?

The number of children for whom CEA was claimed for each of the years was:

2014/15 5,804 pupils 2015/16 5,512 pupils 2016/17 5,216 pupils

The number of children for whom BSA was claimed for each of the years was:

2014/15 127 pupils 2015/16 115 pupils 2016/17 83 pupils

Part 3. How much has the department spent on each allowance for children attending each of these schools (a) Charterhouse School, (b) Dulwich College, (c) Eton College, (d) Harrow School, (e) Marlborough College, (f) Rugby School, (g) Westminster School, (h) Winchester College, (i) Merchant

¹ Due to an accounting discrepancy, £23.4M of expenditure expected to have been incurred in Apr 17 (FY 17/18) was brought forward into Mar 17 (FY 16/17). This expenditure has been excluded from the figures presented as it will be reflected in data for FY7/18.

Taylor's School, (j) St Paul's School, (k) Fettes College and (L) Gordonstoun School (M) Shrewsbury?"

Regarding Part 3 of this FOI request, please note there are no children of civilian employees attending any of the schools listed. The details set out in the tables below relate to CEA only.

FY 14/15	£
Charterhouse School - Godalming	85622
Dulwich College Preparatory School - London	15083
Eton College - Windsor	263965
Fettes College - Edinburgh	482272
Gordonstoun School - Elgin	231646
Harrow School - Harrow on the Hill	171459
Marlborough College - Marlborough	304709
Merchant Taylors School	0
Rugby School - Rugby	72069
Shrewsbury School - Shrewsbury	215967
St Paul's School	0
Westminster School	0
Winchester College - Winchester	78925

FY 15/16	£
Charterhouse School - Godalming	67170
Dulwich College Preparatory School - London	11139
Eton College - Windsor	275589
Fettes College - Edinburgh	484890
Gordonstoun School - Elgin	195316
Harrow School - Harrow on the Hill	161336
Marlborough College - Marlborough	344012
Merchant Taylors School	0
Rugby School - Rugby	53752
Shrewsbury School - Shrewsbury	239990
St Paul's School	0
Westminster School	0
Winchester College - Winchester	86735

FY 16/17

£

Charterhouse School - Godalming	77541
Dulwich College Preparatory School - London	3029
Eton College - Windsor	268210
Fettes College - Edinburgh	441027
Gordonstoun School - Elgin	199029
Harrow School - Harrow on the Hill	183357
Marlborough College - Marlborough	346689
Merchant Taylors School	0
Rugby School - Rugby	35233
Shrewsbury School - Shrewsbury	231047
St Paul's School	0
Westminster School	0
Winchester College - Winchester	91608

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours Sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI