



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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Ref: FOI2017/02212

Email: [DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk)

[REDACTED]

7 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 January 2017, to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"(1) For financial year 2014-15 and separately financial year 2015-16 please state the amount paid (rounded to the nearest £1000) by the MoD in respect of the children of MoD civilian personnel attending boarding schools in the UK, the number of civilian personnel this related to and the number of children that this related to for each financial year.*

*(2) For financial year 2014-15 and separately financial year 2015-16 please state the amount paid (rounded to the nearest £1000) by the MoD in respect of School Children's Visit claims by MoD civilian personnel whose children attend boarding schools in the UK.*

*(3) Please state the total number of civilian personnel the MoD currently pays towards the costs of their children attending boarding schools in the UK, the overall total and country total number of children that this currently relates to and the country that the MoD civilian personnel are based.*

*(4) For financial year 2014-15 and separately financial year 2015-16 please state the amount paid (rounded to the nearest £1000) by the MoD in respect of School Children's Visit claims by service personnel and the numbers of children that this related to for each financial year.*

*To clarify, questions 1 to 3 relate to MoD civilian personnel and question 4 relates to service (armed forces) personnel."*

On 13 February 2017 you provided the following clarification:

*"please find my refined request as follows:*

*(1) For financial year 2014-15 and separately financial year 2015-16 please state the amount paid (rounded to the nearest £1000) by the MoD in respect of the children of MoD civilian personnel attending boarding schools in the UK, the number of MoD civilian personnel this related to for each financial year and the number of children that this related to for each financial year.*

*(2) Please state the total number of MoD civilian personnel the MoD currently pays towards the costs of their children attending boarding schools in the UK and the number of children this relates to."*

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 all of the information in scope of your request is held.

In answer to question 1, the following information is provided:

FY 2014/15

Amount paid: £620,000

Number of civilian personnel: 54

Number of children: 67

FY 2015/16

Amount paid: £591,000

Number of civilian personnel: 43

Number of children: 55

In answer to question 2, I can confirm that there were 24 MOD civilian personnel claiming Boarding School Allowance for a total of 29 children. As Boarding School Allowance is claimed in arrears the information provided is the latest data available as of the autumn term 2016.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) it may be helpful if I explain that MOD civil servants posted overseas generally send their dependent children to Service Children's Education schools or state schools in English-speaking countries. Where this is not practicable, education at a UK boarding school may be authorised, subject to a 10% parental contribution. The entitlement ceases on return of the civil servant to the UK, unless the child is at a critical stage in their education (e.g. has started a course leading to GCSE or A levels). The number of personnel claiming continues to reduce as the MOD reduces its overseas footprint.

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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



DBS Secretariat Team