



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (06/K)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom +44 (0)20 721 89000

Ref: FOI2016/07024

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Email: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

22 July 2016

Dear,

Thank you for your email of 13 July in which you requested 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 2015/16 financial year.
2. For the last financial year (2015/16) 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 (2015/16) 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 2015/16 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?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does hold information within scope of your request.

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 2015/16 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.

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. 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.

The idea is to ensure that service personnel are not disadvantaged by their service, whether keeping Britain safe at home or abroad, and this allowance ensures children with parents in the Armed Forces have educational continuity. A parental contribution for the boarding and tuition fees in respect of each child is required.

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 £30 million per annum along with an associated reduction in claimants. Work continues to reduce the cost of the allowance.

During FY15/16, Continuity of Education Allowance was paid in respect of 5,520 children at a total cost of £80.9M.

Q.2 For the last financial year (2015/16) 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 service personnel, irrespective of rank, subject to them satisfying the eligibility criteria, the overarching principals of which are accompanied service and educational continuity. We are determined that it should go only to those who really need it, from our most junior service personnel to our most senior. Currently, the ratio between officer and other rank claimants is around 60:40.

During FY15/16, 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			Total Children
	RN	Army	RAF	
OR2	Able Seaman	Private	Junior Technician	50
OR3		Lance Corporal		60
OR4	Leading Hand	Corporal	Corporal	310
OR6	Petty Officer	Sergeant	Sergeant	470
OR7	Chief Petty Officer	Staff Sergeant	Flight Sergeant	460
OR8		Warrant Officer 2		340
OR9	Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer 1	Warrant Officer	200
OF1	Sub Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Flying Officer	10
OF2	Lieutenant	Captain	Flight Lieutenant	540
OF3	Lieutenant Commander	Major	Squadron Leader	970
OF4	Commander	Lieutenant Colonel	Wing Commander	1,200
OF5	Captain	Colonel	Group	610

			Captain	
OF6	Commander	Brigadier	Air Commodore	220
OF7	Rear Admiral	Major General	Air Vice Marshal	60
OF8	Vice Admiral	Lieutenant General	Air Marshal	20
OF9	Admiral	General	Air Chief Marshal	~
Total				5,520

Q3. For the last financial year (2015/16) 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.

School	No. Children
Eton	20
Winchester	10
Roedean	~
Fettes	30
Radley	20
Wellington	10
Gordonstoun	10

Q4. For the 2015/16 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.

Options for Service Personnel include 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.

During FY15/16 the 25 schools where spend on Continuity of Education Allowance was the greatest were as follows:

School	£M
Queen Ethelburga's College - York	4.98
The Duke of York's Royal Military Academy - Dover	2.23
Clayesmore School/Clayesmore Prep School - Blandford Forum	2.19
Royal Hospital School - Ipswich	1.73
Royal Alexandra & Albert School - Reigate	1.42
Dauntsey's School - Nr Devizes	1.38
Dean Close School - Cheltenham	1.33
Gordon's School - Woking	1.32
Bromsgrove School - Bromsgrove	1.31
Hazlegrove Preparatory School, Yeovil	1.30
King's School (Bruton)	1.28

Kingswood School - Bath	1.23
Forres Sandle Manor School - Fordingbridge	1.16
King's College - Taunton	1.16
Barnard Castle School - Barnard Castle	1.11
Stamford Endowed Schools - Stamford	1.08
Wycliffe College - Stonehouse	0.99
Kingham Hill School - Chipping Norton	0.96
Monmouth School - Monmouth	0.95
Warminster School - Warminster	0.94
Cheltenham College - Cheltenham	0.88
Monkton Combe School - Bath	0.86
Licensed Victuallers School - Ascot	0.85
Appleford School - Nr Salisbury	0.84
Taunton School - Taunton	0.77

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. Payment is capped with any fees beyond the allowance maximum being the responsibility of the parent. The maximum that may be claimed for each category of Continuity of Education Allowance are as follows:

Education Allowance	Allowance Max (per annum) £
CEA (Board) - Senior	20,250
CEA (Board) – Junior	15,430
CEA Special Educational Needs Addition (SENA)	30,250
CEA (Day) – Senior	12,160
CEA (Day) – Junior	9,090
CEA SENA (Day)	19,420
CEA (Guardians)	1,240
Day School Allowance (North Wales)	16,230

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, 2nd 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