



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
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Ref: FOI2015/04879

18 June 2015

Reply to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 3 June regarding the eligibility criteria for Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) and the frequency of movement of the claimant's family home.

During the CEA application process the prospective claimant's Assignment Authority (AA) is required to declare whether or not, in their view, the claimant is likely to be assigned at least 50 miles from their current duty station within the next 4 years. Also during the application process, the claimant is required to declare the address of their family home over the last three preceding assignments, however, this does not form part of the formal eligibility criteria. Despite this, when the claimant's Commanding Officer (CO) assesses the CEA application and either: the AA has declared that the claimant is not likely to move more than 50 miles in the next 4 years or the claimant's family home has not moved more than 50 miles within the last two assignments, the CO is required to take this into account when considering the application. The lack of movement of the family home should have no direct impact on the application, however, it stands to reason that the longer the period since the family home has not moved, the less likely the prospective claimant is able to demonstrate family mobility; an overarching prerequisite for CEA eligibility.

I note that you refer to cases where the claimant has moved to a new assignment in excess of 50 miles from their previous one, but has been denied CEA eligibility because their family home has not also moved in excess of 50 miles. Unfortunately, without knowing the precise circumstances of each case, it is not possible to explain why those applications were not successful. In those cases, however, the CO, on taking everything into consideration, decided that the individual was not eligible for CEA. The reason for the failure of those applications may have had nothing to do with the family home at all.

Where a Service person disagrees with a decision made regarding their eligibility to any allowance, they are entitled to submit casework requesting a review of the decision. The individuals to whom you refer would also have had that right.

I hope this response clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat