



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated [REDACTED] in which you requested the following information:

What is the Criterion which decides whether a guardian/parent qualifies for financial assistance from the MOD to send his children to boarding school? Any guardian who applies? Or must there be a special, operational reason?

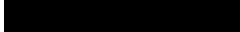
I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A review of our data holdings has been completed, and I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information regarding MOD Service children only; this is provided in the annex to this letter.

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,

[REDACTED]

- 
- Financial assistance for the education of Service children may be provided through the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA). The aim of CEA is to assist Service personnel achieve 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. CEA ensures that the children of Service personnel do not suffer educational disadvantage by having to regularly uproot to follow their parent around the UK/world as they serve their country.
  - CEA is available to all Service personnel irrespective of rank subject to them satisfying the eligibility criteria, the fundamental principles of which are continuity of education and accompanied Service. Claimants must be accompanied by their immediate family at their duty station and a child must complete the stage of education at the school for which CEA is in issue.
  - CEA 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 parent continues to satisfy the eligibility criteria.
  - Service personnel may choose from 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 CEA, 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. It is a condition of CEA 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. Any outstanding fees following receipt of the allowance maxima must be met by the claimant.
  - The full CEA regulations are detailed in Chapter 9 of Part 2 of Joint Service Publication 752 (Tri-Service Regulations for Expenses and Allowances) which is now published at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tri-service-regulations-for-expenses-and-allowances-jsp-752>