



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2016/12268

██████████ ██████████

Email to: ██████████ ██████████

16 January 2017

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2016 in which you requested the following information:

- "1. How many staff in the department were in receipt of the continuity of education allowance over the past four years? Please could you break this down by financial year, up to and including December 2016. For each member of staff, please could you state how many children are in receipt of the continuity of education allowance and the cost for each member of staff. Please could you also provide a total figure (broken down year by year) for the number of staff and children in receipt of the allowance.*
- 2. What was the cost, in pounds sterling, to the department in respect of staff based in the UK, and posted overseas? Please could you break this down by staff based in the UK, and staff posted overseas and by financial year. Please could you break this down for each member of staff, by financial year, up to an including December 2016.*
- 3. How much, in pounds sterling, has the department spent on continuity of education allowance for children attending (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) Cheltenham Ladies College, (j) Roedean School, (k) St Paul's School, (l) Fettes College and (m) Gordonstoun School over the past three years? Please could you break this down by financial year, for the past three years up to and including December 2016."*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request.

Service personnel should not be disadvantaged by their service, whether keeping Britain safe at home or abroad, and Continuity of Education Allowance (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. Service personnel could be eligible to CEA provided they satisfy certain eligibility criteria. The full CEA regulations are at Chapter 9 of JSP752 which has been published on [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tri-service-regulations-for-expenses-and-allowances-jsp-72) at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tri-service-regulations-for-expenses-and-allowances-jsp-72>.

The annual spend on the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) has reduced every year since 2009/10 and it continues to fall. CEA is open to all ranks and we are determined that it should go only to those who really need it.

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. 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.

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

Parents can choose from a wide range of schools within the MOD Accredited School's Database (ASD). If a school a CEA claimant wishes to send their child to a school that is not on the ASD, they can request that the school is added to the ASD provided it meets all the qualifying criteria.

The information relating to your request is set out in the order you presented it.

TABLE 1. Service personnel in receipt of Continuity of Education Allowance 2012 to 2016.

Claimants/ Children	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 (to Nov 16) ¹
UK	4,159	3,599	3,215	3,091	2,842
Overseas	792	701	665	580	544
Total	4,951	4,300	3,880	3,671	3,386
Children	7,356	6,399	5,804	5,512	5,102

TABLE 2. Cost in pounds sterling to the department in respect of Service personnel based in the UK, and posted overseas 2012 to 2016

Location	£M				
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 (to Nov 16) ¹
UK	82.4	74.3	69.4	67.0	44.5
Overseas	16.5	15.0	15.1	13.9	8.5
Total	98.9	89.3	84.5	80.9	53.0

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.

TABLE 3. Cost in pounds sterling which the department has spent on continuity of education allowance for children attending the schools listed during 2012 to 2016

School	£				
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 (to Nov 16) ¹
Charterhouse School	91,840	95,275	85,622	67,170	48,893
Dulwich College	14,252	14,641	15,083	11,139	3,029
Eton College	214,269	228,967	263,965	275,589	174,598
Harrow School	177,460	165,348	171,459	161,336	118,674
Marlborough College	269,277	265,952	304,709	344,012	230,815
Rugby School	124,429	119,217	72,068	53,752	35,233
Westminster School	0	0	0	0	0
Winchester College	140,724	98,694,	78,925	86,735	60,288
Cheltenham Ladies College	72,865	63,312	46,038	33,585	13,994

Roedean School	12,294	19,055	6,454	13,498	13,944
St Paul's School	0	0	0	0	0
Fettes College	519,518	480,528	482,275	484,890	285,694
Gordonstoun School	301,582	197,793	231,645	195,315	138,272

¹ We currently only have data up to end November 2016.

The information supplied in Tables 1 and 2 on Page 2 relates specifically to CEA claims as stipulated in your request. However under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that although MOD Civilians cannot claim CEA, they can claim a similar payment called Boarding School Allowance (BSA). This is only available to MOD civilians based overseas, whose children cannot be educated in the overseas area. BSA claimants must be accompanied overseas by their immediate family and each claimant is also required to make a contribution of at least 10% of the fee. The allowance is payable up to Age 18 or the end of the term in which the employee returns to the UK.

TABLE 4. MOD Civilians in receipt of Boarding School Allowance 2012 to 2016.

Claimants/ Children	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 (to Nov 16) ¹
UK	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	68	56	43	37	n/a
Total	68	56	43	37	n/a
Children	86	69	56	49	n/a

TABLE 5. Cost in pounds sterling to the department in respect of MOD Civilians based overseas 2012 to 2016

Location	£M				
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 (to Nov 16) ¹
UK	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	n/a
Total	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	n/a

¹ We currently only have data up to end November 2016.

Please note that of the schools specified, one civilian claimed for two children at Winchester College.

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, Zone D, 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,

(Original Signed)
Defence People Secretariat