



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2017/02775

[REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

27 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2017 in which you requested the following information:

- "1) How many staff in the department were in receipt of the Continuity of Education Allowance during 2016?*
- 2) How many children benefited from the Continuity of Education Allowance during 2016?*
- 2) What was the total cost (in pounds sterling) to the department for providing the Continuity of Education Allowance to staff during 2016? Please could you also break this down by staff based in the UK, and staff posted overseas.*
- 3) In 2016, how much (in pounds sterling) did the department spend on Continuity of Education Allowance for children attending the following schools:*
  - (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,*
  - (m) Gordonstoun School"*

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. The information is provided in the order you have presented it in your request.

The number of Service personnel in receipt of Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) during 2016 was 3,452. However, because each calendar year covers 2 academic years (15/16 and 16/17), some Service personnel were claiming the allowance for the first time and some for the last. This artificially inflates the number of claimants. So, in academic year 15/16 there were 3,030 Service personnel in receipt of the allowance and in academic year 16/17 there are, 2,920.

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.

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.

CEA claimants must be accompanied by their immediate family at their duty. Each claimant is required to make a contribution of at least 10% of the fees.

The number of children who benefited from the CEA during 2016 was 5,200. However, for the reasons given for your first question, in academic year 15/16, 4,490 Service children benefitted from the allowance and in academic year 16/17 the number is 4,330.

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 Service Person meets the eligibility criteria. 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 total cost to the department for providing CEA during 2016 was £81M; £68M for Service personnel assigned to the UK and £13M for those assigned overseas.

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

School	Amount
Charterhouse School	77,541
Cheltenham Ladies' College	28,484.00
Dulwich College Preparatory School	3,029.00
Eton College	268,210
Fettes College	457,083
Gordonstoun School	199,029
Harrow School	183,357
Marlborough College	332,199
Roedean School	21,239
Rugby School	35,233
St Paul's School	0.00
Westminster School	0.00
Winchester College	91,608

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.

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](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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

(Original Signed)  
Defence People Secretariat