



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Defence Business Services Secretariat
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2017/04143

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk

27 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 30 March 2017, to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"The attached FOI response (FOI2017/02212) advises that there were 24 MoD civilian personnel claiming Boarding School Allowance for a total of 29 children as of the autumn term 2016. Of these 24 MoD civilian personnel please set out (A) the total number of staff claiming Boarding School Allowance by country where the member of staff is based and (B) by country the number of these staff who are male and the number who are female and (C) the overall totals for male and female staff claiming Boarding School Allowance and (D) the respective number of children of the staff in each country."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. However, in order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 1998, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by supplementing numbers less than 5 with a tilde (~). Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

For the 24 MoD civilian personnel claiming Boarding School Allowance (BSA) for a total of 29 children as of the autumn term 2016, the table overleaf shows the total number claiming BSA by country, the number of male and female personnel, the overall totals and the respective number of children.

Country where based	Male staff	Female staff	Total staff	Total children
Belgium	0	~	~	~
Cyprus	0	~	~	~
Fiji	~	0	~	~
Georgia	0	~	~	~
Germany	9	~	13	17
Gibraltar	~	0	~	~
Netherlands	~	0	~	~
Italy	0	~	~	~
Saudi Arabia	~	~	~	~
USA	~	0	~	~
Total	15	9	24	29

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, 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



A/Head of DBS Secretariat