



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2018/05963

[REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

31 May 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 May 2018 requesting the following information:

"Under the FOI Act I would like to know the amount that the MOD has paid in public (private) school fees in the last calendar year from the date of this request. I would also like to know the number of children who received this benefit and the grade of the eligible personnel."

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Following a search of our records I can inform you that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information within the scope of your request.

In the 12 months to 2 May 2018, Boarding School Allowance (BSA) payments amounting to £396,328 were made for the children of Civil Servants serving overseas. These payments covered claims for 35 children and the claimants were a variety of grades from civil service Executive Officer to Grade 7 (Band D to B2).

In addition, during the same period, the MOD spent £77.33M on Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) for the children of Service personnel.

Table A on the following page contains the number of children who received CEA during the period and the ranks of their parents by NATO rank. Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) of FOI Act 2000, you will find these ranks explained further on Page 10 of the document at the link below:

Table A - The number of children who received CEA during the period and the ranks of their parents

NATO RANK	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
OF1	5
OF2	386
OF3	738
OF4	916
OF5	462
OF6	169
OF7	31
OF8	12
OF9	1
OR2	42
OR3	90
OR4	327
OR6	503
OR7	399
OR8	237
OR9	167
Total	4485

Continuity of Education Allowance 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 continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

Continuity of Education Allowance is available to all Service personnel of any rank, subject to them satisfying the eligibility criteria. The regulations are available at the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/tri-service-regulations-for-expenses-andallowances

Continuity of Education Allowance claimants must be accompanied by their immediate family at their duty station and 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.

Service personnel may select from a wide variety of schools across the United Kingdom from within the independent and state maintained sectors. To be admissible for the purposes of Continuity of Education Allowance, 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 Continuity of Education Allowances that each claimant is required to contribute at least 10% of the fees for each child for whom the allowance is claimed. Payment is capped with any fees beyond that cap being the responsibility of the parent. For academic year 17/18, Continuity of Education Allowance may be claimed up to £7,245 per academic term, depending on the age of the child.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours Sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI