



Ministry
of Defence

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19 March 2019

Ref. FOI 2018/14166

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 November 2018 requesting the following information:

"I am requesting lists of the properties used by military officers of 1 Star rank and above as official service residences in the financial years 2018/19; 2017/18; 2016/17; 2015/2016; 2014/2015.

For each property please could you state: the address of the property; whether the property is owned by the MOD/Government; how much rent is paid; how much is spent on each property on utility bills; how much was spent on repairs/maintenance; other costs.

Please could you also tell me which of the military chiefs have staff at their official service residences as of November 2018. Please tell me how many staff there are at each residence and what their jobs are and how much these roles cost the MOD in the last five financial years.

Finally please can you tell me how much money was spent refurbishing, decorating, preparing a new residence for the Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter in 2018."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in providing this FOI response but I hope you can understand that the department has had to conduct significant searches across the estate in order to determine if we hold information in scope of this request.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found in the table below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at Sections 26(1)(b) (Defence) of the FOIA and has been withheld. Section 26 is a qualified exemption and therefore a public interest test has been conducted.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied because some of the information requested concerns the addresses of the properties in question and disclosing this information could put at risk the security of our Armed Forces personnel. A public interest test has been conducted to determine whether the risk posed to our Armed Forces personnel through this information is tolerable and I am satisfied in this case that the balance of the public interest lies in withholding the information.

The remainder of the information requested can be found below:

I can confirm that none of the properties in question are owned by the MOD. Please find below the MOD spend on staff, along with the number of staff at each residency, their jobs and how much these roles cost the MOD, please also find the rent, utilities and maintenance figures. These relate to financial years 2014-15, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to date, as requested:

2014-2015				
	MOD Spend on Staff	MOD Spend on Rent	MOD Spend on Utilities	MOD Spend on Maintenance*
The Chief of Defence Staff	£107,365.05 (This cost covers one house keeper – PO who was paid £49,209.76 and one house manager WO2 paid £58,155.29.)	£19,717.00	No Information Held	£1,241.00
The First Sea Lord	£99,116 (This cost covers two household staff; one Petty Officer - House Manager who was paid £53,992 & one Leading Hand – Chef/Valet who was paid £45,124.)	£18,145	No Information Held	£1,241.00
The Chief of General Staff	£60,215.00 (This cost covers one household staff, one warrant Officer 2 - whose role is House Manager.)	£19,530	No Information Held	£1,241.00
The Chief of the Air Staff**	£95,208 (This cost covers two household staff; one Cpl (Steward) who was paid £44,286 and one Sgt (Chef) who was paid £50,922)	£18,000	No Information Held	£1,241.00
The Adjutant General & Commander in Chief Land	No Information Held – the position of Commander in Chief Land ceased on 7 January 2013 and the Adjutant General post ceased to be Adjutant General and became Commander Personnel Support Command on 31 March 2015, this post would not have had an entitlement to an OSR.			
2015-2016				
	MOD Spend on Staff	MOD Spend on Rent	MOD Spend on Utilities	MOD Spend on Maintenance*
The Chief of Defence Staff	£113,960.66 (This cost covers two household staff; one Sgt House Manager who was paid £56,980.33 and one driver who was paid £56,980.33.	£19,717.00	£232.32	£1,176.45
The First Sea Lord	£124,729	£18,145	No Information Held	£1,447.25

	(This cost covers two household staff; one Petty Officer - House Manager who was paid £64,994 & one Leading Hand – Chef/Valet who was paid £59,735.)			
The Chief of General Staff	£60,789.00 (This cost covers one household staff, one warrant Officer 2 - whose role is House Manager.)	£22,050	£8,894.76	£1,321.33
The Chief of the Air Staff**	£110,985.00 (This cost covers two household staff; one Cpl (Steward) who was paid £51,736 and one Sgt (Chef) paid £59,249)	£18,000	£2,964.11	£1,176.45
The Adjutant General & Commander in Chief Land	No Information Held – the position of Commander in Chief Land ceased on 7 January 2013 and the Adjutant General post ceased to be Adjutant General and became Commander Personnel Support Command on 31 March 2015.			
2016-2017				
	MOD Spend on Staff	MOD Spend on Rent	MOD Spend on Utilities	MOD Spend on Maintenance*
The Chief of Defence Staff	£84,748.16 (This cost covers four household staff; one PO/CPO house manager who was paid £38,711.08; one Sgt house manager who was paid £13,092.15; one Sgt house manager who was paid £5,288.53 and one Steward who was paid £27,656.40.)	£42,840	£910.27 Please note these figures are for electricity only. Information concerning the gas figures is not held.	£1,141.96
The First Sea Lord	£119,836.00 (This cost covers two household staff; one Petty Officer - House Manager who was paid £59,223 & one Leading Hand – Chef/Valet who was paid £60,613.)	£25,341	£3,612.93	£1,141.96
The Chief of General Staff	£71,826.00 (This cost covers one household staff, one warrant Officer 2 - whose role is House Manager.)	£22,050	£2,234.96	£1,141.96
The Chief of the Air Staff**	£113,860.00 (This cost covers two household staff; one Cpl (Steward) who was paid	£18,000	£3,783.67	£11,482.08

	£52,889 and one Sgt (Chef) who was paid £60,971)			
The Adjutant General & Commander in Chief Land	No Information Held – the position of Commander in Chief Land ceased on 7 January 2013 and the Adjutant General post ceased to be Adjutant General and became Commander Personnel Support Command on 31 March 2015.			
2017-2018				
	MOD Spend on Staff	MOD Spend on Rent	MOD Spend on Utilities	MOD Spend on Maintenance*
The Chief of Defence Staff	£92,685.40 (This cost covers two household staff; one Sgt house manager who was paid £65,341.96 and one steward who was paid £27,343.44.)	£42,840	£754.99 Please note these figures are for electricity only for 2017. Information concerning the gas figures or electricity for 2018 is not held.	£1,173.43
The First Sea Lord	£113,384 (This cost covers two household staff; one Petty Officer - House Manager who was paid £59,773 & one Leading Hand – Chef/Valet who was paid £53,611.)	£23,241	£1,120.34	£1,173.43
The Chief of General Staff	£72,324 (This cost covers one household staff, one warrant Officer 2 - whose role is House Manager.)	£22,050	£9,204.74	£29,459.20
The Chief of the Air Staff**	£92,258 (This cost covers two household staff; one Cpl (Steward) who was paid £30,872 and one Sgt (Chef) who was paid £61,386)	£18,000	£4,569.87	£1,173.43
The Adjutant General & Commander in Chief Land	No Information Held – the position of Commander in Chief Land ceased on 7 January 2013 and the Adjutant General post ceased to be Adjutant General and became Commander Personnel Support Command on 31 March 2015.			
2018-2019				
	MOD Spend on Staff	MOD Spend on Rent	MOD Spend on Utilities	MOD Spend on Maintenance*
The Chief of Defence Staff	£128,761.11 (This cost covers one housekeeper – PO who was paid £60,097.68 and one house manager WO2 who was paid £68,663.43.)	£60,000 (This includes a service charge of £15,000 per annum.)	No information held	No Information Held

The First Sea Lord	£95,079 (This cost covers two household staff; one Petty Officer - House Manager who was paid £52,326 & one Leading Hand – Chef/Valet who was paid £42,753.)	£23,241 (This includes a service charge of £15,000 per annum.)	£110.80 (Standing charges only)	£793.24
The Chief of General Staff	£61,428 (This cost covers one household staff, one warrant Officer 2 - whose role is House Manager.)	£22,050	£5,737.10	£40,275.03
The Chief of the Air Staff**	£46,744 (This cost covers one household staff - Sgt (Chef))	£18,000	£2,990.81	£5,978.82
The Adjutant General & Commander in Chief Land	No Information Held – the position of Commander in Chief Land ceased on 7 January 2013 and the Adjutant General post ceased to be Adjutant General and became Commander Personnel Support Command on 31 March 2015.			

The MOD does not hold the information you have requested in regards to your question concerning how much money was spent refurbishing, decorating, preparing a new residence for the Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter in 2018.

** Please note in regards to the Chief of Air Staff's residency, the household staff also includes a housekeeper who is part of an overall contract, however it is not possible to break out cleaner costs from the overall cost of the contract.

* Any routine maintenance costs where there is no information held are not separately identifiable from other Service Family Accommodation on the estate/region in which they are situated.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that since 2010 the MOD has not had an accommodation category of Official Service Residence, all properties are now treated as Service Family Accommodation.

However, some posts (not people) have a property that is tied to that post; the above posts are examples of this. The reason properties are tied to these posts is due to the nature of those roles.

The maintenance costs listed above covers both the core housing prime contract costs as well as any other additional maintenance costs hence why there is some variations and some maintenance figures are higher than others, covering items such as replacement carpets, replacement fire alarm and security systems, replacement curtains, carpets, shower pumps and washing machines, including some maintenance done on upgrading fences and an upgrade to the electronic entry system.

With regards to your question concerning how much money was spent refurbishing, decorating and preparing a new residence for the Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter in 2019, I can advise you that this property is leased and all work on the property to prepare it for occupation was funded by the landlord.

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 in writing 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,

DIO Secretariat