



**Ministry
of Defence**

Secretariat
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Ref. FOI 2019/13106

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2019 requesting the following information:

"I should like to submit a Freedom of Information request to learn the total amount spent by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) on covering, removing, or otherwise rendering unusable, swimming pools at substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) both within the UK and overseas. Please break down the results by year, indicate whether the property was located within the UK or overseas and provide figures from 2016.

Please would you confirm that extracting data for the previous 3 years will take fewer than 3.5 working days, whereas the 7 years from 2009 to 2015 will take in excess of 186.5 working days? It seems somewhat disingenuous that this could be the case."

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 (MOD) and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

Since 2016, in the UK, no SSFA with swimming pools have been provided to Service Personnel.

The information with respect to overseas properties is presented in the table below:

Year	Location	How the works were funded
2018	Brussels, Belgium	Landlord funded, no DIO contribution.
2018	Brunssum, Netherlands	An additional payment of €250 pcm is paid by DIO to the landlord. This amount comprises rental compensation for a number of compliance works undertaken by the Landlord. These only partly included the decommissioning/covering of the pool, together with other fire and electrical safety

		works to the property where DIO were unable to provide these within a short timescale prior to occupation. As such, it is difficult to apportion the percentage rental element for all the works undertaken.
2019	Izmir, Turkey	Landlord funded, no DIO contribution
2019	Valencia, Spain	Landlord funded, no DIO Contribution

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that in overseas locations it is standard practice to source properties that do not have individual pools within their grounds or within the property. This practice is intended both to mitigate health and safety concerns and to avoid a large maintenance liability. However, as sourcing is undertaken on the open market, it is occasionally necessary to take on properties with individual pools where there are no alternatives available. It should be noted that this happens only very rarely. If this is the case, the landlords of these properties will be asked to decommission and cover at their own expense in the first instance, with a contribution being made only if they are resistant to funding it entirely themselves.

You may also find it helpful to note that while records are held between 2009 – 2016 for UK SSFA, there are over 4,300 files and it is estimated it would take 20 minutes per record to locate and extract the information requested.

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