



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2021/00986

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

27 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

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

"I am writing to you to submit a Freedom of Information Request on the details of an MOD Employment Contract called the "Type S Engagement", especially pertaining to Professionally Qualified Officer Medical Bursars within the Army Medical Services.

I have gone to all reasonable lengths to source this information through open source databases such as internet search engines, Defence Gateway/Defence Connect, MODNet, through contacting the Army Medical Services, and have also searched the MOD FOI releases pre and post 2010 but am unable to source information on the exact terms of the "Type S Engagement" contract of employment as appears in Army Commissioning Regulations 2019.

I would be grateful if your department were to source any and all policy documentation providing the exact terms of the "Type S Engagement" for current MOD employees in 2021, and any changes to it since (including) 2016."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is below. I apologise that it has taken slightly longer to reply than it would normally have done, but hope you will understand this is because of the unusual circumstances in which we are currently working.

In response to your request, please note that the Army uses the Type S engagement for all officer pre career service and in some cases to afford Army Reserve soldiers an opportunity for Regular service. All those who are not in Regular service are attested to a Type S engagement on entry to RMAS, and bursars of all forms serve on one until completion of initial officer training which is the point of commissioning; those commissioned from the ranks remain on their Versatile Engagement (VEng) while at RMAS.

Type S engagements relate to soldier service and as such are described at Soldier Terms of Service Part 3 para 01.081 – 01.084. While the description is generic the key points are:

- They can be for a specified and tailored period of time between 6 months and 12 years;
- Potential Officer Candidates are enlisted on this engagement (as it is a pre-career grouping) prior to initial officer training;
- Importantly for bursars this engagement does not attract a Reserve liability;
- There is no right to change to another soldier engagement;

- Their utility for Professionally Qualified Officer Medical Bursars is that it enables periods of pre career service.

Soldier Terms of Service was released in Jul 2020 and was the collation of a plethora of soldier policy, in this case AGAI 46 Regular Soldier Terms of Service which would have applied from 2016.

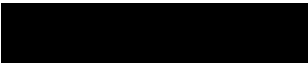
- The Type S Engagement is extant, and falls under the provisions of Army Terms of Service Regulations 2007 which is accessible at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/3382/contents/made>
- The customisable length is what makes it useful for pre-career service, though this is not its only use (re-joiners sometimes re-enlist on a Type S). When considering a bursary to be provided to a potential officer, the Army can provide a regular non-commissioned engagement matched to their expected degree length with the flexibility to extend where there is a Service need (e.g. delayed entry to RMAS on completion of studies). That it is a regular engagement allows the Service Personnel (SP) to make the obligations and receive the benefits of regular service (i.e. salaried pay).
- The SP has no right to leave until they are at the four-year point of their engagement.
- As regular soldiers, SP can be subject to Returns of Service where a specific incentive is provided. For a financial incentive this could be up to 6 years.
- The Queen's Regulations for the Army – Chapter 9

Under s.16 (Advice and Assistance) it might be helpful to note that further support is available through the Chain of Command.

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


Workforce 2
Army Policy & Secretariat