



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Email: [DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk)

Ref: FOI2022/08070

[REDACTED]

29 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

- “1. For each of the last two financial years (20/21 and 21/22) please state how much was paid as part of the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA), how many children this covered and how many service personnel were claiming the allowance.
2. For each of the last two financial years (20/21 and 21/22) please state (a) the average annual claim per service personnel for CEA and (b) the highest single claim.
3. For the last two financial years (20/21 and 21/22) can you provide me with the numbers of children given such an education for each rank of the armed services?
4. For each of the last two financial years (2020/21 and 21/22) please state how many children were educated at the following schools with the assistance of the Continuity of Education Allowance? (i) Eton, (ii) Winchester, (iii) Roedean, (iv) Fettes, (v) Radley, (vi) Wellington and (vii) Gordonstoun.
5. For each of the last two financial years (20/21 and 2021/22) please provide me with a list of the 10 schools where the MoD had the biggest spend in relation to the Continuity of Education Allowance. Please provide the name of the school and the amount the MoD spent at the school to provide, subsidised places for MoD employees' children.
6. What are the is current maximum that can be claimed annually under the various categories of the Continuity of Education Allowance?”

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 Data Protection Legislation, Section 40(2) of the FOIA 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.

Please find the enclosed Annex A which provides information in answer to questions 1 to 5 of your request.

In answer to question 6, it is a condition of Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) that the claimant must make a minimum parental contribution of 10% of the boarding and tuition fees in respect of each child for whom they claim the allowance. Any outstanding fees following receipt of the allowance maximum must be met by the claimant.

The table below shows the maximum amounts that can be claimed for each category of CEA:

<b>Education Allowance</b>	<b>Maximum Allowance (per annum)*</b>
CEA (Board) Senior	£23,541
CEA (Board) Junior	£18,288
CEA SENA SP	£35,172
CEA (DAY) - Senior	£14,145
CEA (DAY) - Junior	£10,572
CEA SENA (Day)	£22,581
CEA (Guardians) (per day)	£2,737
Day School Allowance (North Wales)	£19,455

*\*per child*

The boundary between junior and senior rates of CEA depends on the school; however, generally, junior rates of CEA are paid for children in Years 3 to 6, while senior rates are paid for children in Years 7 to 13.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that the new rates of Education Allowance are to be implemented on 1 August 2022.

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](mailto: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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)

1. For each of the last two financial years (20/21 and 21/22) please state how much was paid as part of the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA), how many children this covered and how many service personnel were claiming the allowance.

Period	Category	Cost	Child Count	SP Count
FY2021	CEA	£75.76M	4130	2800
	CEA Guardian	£.04M	~	30
	DSA NW	£.82M	90	50
	SENA	£2.97M	150	140
<b>FY2021 Total</b>		<b>£79.58M</b>	<b>4310</b>	<b>2900</b>
FY2122	CEA	£79.40M	4170	2810
	CEA Guardian	£.04M	~	30
	DSA NW	£.85M	90	50
	SENA	£2.97M	140	130
<b>FY2122 Total</b>		<b>£83.25M</b>	<b>4320</b>	<b>2900</b>

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals have been rounded independently and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts. ~ represents 5 or less.

2. For each of the last two financial years (20/21 and 21/22) please state (a) the average annual claim per service personnel for CEA and (b) the highest single claim.

Period	Av. Annual Cost	Max. Annual Cost	Max. Claim
FY2021	£27,433	£94,958	£11,696
FY2122	£28,738	£118,145	£11,724

3. For the last two financial years (20/21 and 21/22) can you provide me with the numbers of children given such an education for each rank of the armed services?

NATO_RANK*	Child Count		<b>*Highest rank held at claim date</b>
	FY2021	FY2122	
OF1	20	10	<i>As service personnel can hold more than one rank during a financial year, for the purpose of this question they have been counted at the most senior rank held.</i>
OF2	430	440	
OF3	600	560	
OF4	820	840	
OF5	460	450	
OF6	140	140	
OF7	50	50	
OF8	~	10	
OF9	~	~	
OR2	40	50	
OR3	80	70	
OR4	350	350	
OR6	480	500	
OR7	470	470	
OR8	270	270	
OR9	120	130	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4310</b>	<b>4320</b>	

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals have been rounded independently and may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

~ represents 5 or less.

4. For each of the last two financial years (2020/21 and 21/22) please state how many children were educated at the following schools with the assistance of the Continuity of Education Allowance? (i) Eton, (ii) Winchester, (iii) Roedean, (iv) Fettes, (v) Radley, (vi) Wellington and (vii) Gordonstoun.

Period	School	Child Count
FY2021	Eton College - Windsor	10
	Fettes College - Edinburgh	20
	Gordonstoun School - Elgin	10
	Radley College - Abingdon	10
	Roedean School - Brighton	0
	Wellington School - Wellington	~
	Winchester College - Winchester	~
FY2122	Eton College - Windsor	10
	Fettes College - Edinburgh	20
	Gordonstoun School - Elgin	~
	Radley College - Abingdon	10
	Roedean School - Brighton	0
	Wellington School - Wellington	~
	Winchester College - Winchester	~

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias. ~ represents 5 or less.

5. For each of the last two financial years (20/21 and 2021/22) please provide me with a list of the 10 schools where the MoD had the biggest spend in relation to the CEA. Please provide the name of the school and the amount the MoD spent at the school to provide, subsidised places for MoD employees' children.

Period	School	Cost
FY2021	Queen Ethelburga's College - York	£8.66M
	Bromsgrove School - Bromsgrove	£2.48M
	Clayesmore School/Prep School - Blandford	£2.18M
	Duke of York's Royal Military Academy - Dover	£2.06M
	Dauntsey's School - Nr Devizes	£1.93M
	Gordon's School - Woking	£1.78M
	Cheltenham College - Cheltenham	£1.76M
	Royal Alexandra & Albert School - Reigate	£1.66M
	Hazlegrove - Yeovil	£1.49M
	Royal Hospital School - Ipswich	£1.36M
FY2122	Queen Ethelburga's College - York	£8.70M
	Bromsgrove School - Bromsgrove	£2.70M
	Gordon's School - Woking	£2.52M
	Duke of York's Royal Military Academy - Dover	£2.46M
	Dauntsey's School - Nr Devizes	£2.31M
	Royal Alexandra & Albert School - Reigate	£2.23M
	Clayesmore School/Prep School - Blandford	£1.99M
Cheltenham College - Cheltenham	£1.72M	

	Taunton School - Taunton	£1.60M
	Stamford Endowed Schools - Stamford	£1.39M