



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref. FOI 2022/09578

01 September 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 August 2022 requesting the following information:

"Please send me a break down of the CILOCT, where the funds go, what they are used for. And, why they are higher in some areas than council tax.

Where CILOCT is higher than council tax, please inform me of the method if any to claim back over payments.

Please send details of how this figure is calculated and why lower band houses have an increase to compensate higher band prices."

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 of the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below:

1. *Please send me a break down of the CILOCT, where the funds go, what they are used for:*

Costs in lieu of Council Tax (CILOCT) income received from Service Personnel (SP) is placed in a DIO Accommodation budget. This is used as a partial offset for the CILOCT paid by DIO Accommodation to Local Authorities/ Councils. As an example of partial offset, in Financial Year 2020/2021, MOD received £60m in CILOCT contributions but paid £75m to councils. The gap between the two is reflective of a typical year.

2. *And, why they are higher in some areas than council tax:*

See answer below.

3. *Where CILOCT is higher than council tax, please inform me of the method if any to claim back over payments.*

Council Tax is an annual fee set by Local Councils. CILOCT is equalised across the country, unlike council tax which varies by borough/county. Different Local Authorities charge their residents different amounts for Council Tax. CILOCT is the average charge for each type of property. SP will pay the same CILOCT charge for a property type irrespective of where in the UK they reside, removing the potential for there to be any geographic disadvantage/or advantage from CILOCT, given that assignment location may not be personal preference.

There is no method to claim back overpayments.

4. *Please send details of how this figure is calculated and why lower band houses have an increase to compensate higher band prices*

CILOCT is calculated in a similar way as Council Tax rates are determined by Local Authorities, the amount paid is based on the type of accommodation occupied.

CILOCT is representative of the average Council Tax bill across the UK, lower band houses charges do not compensate for higher band prices.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know:

SP pay CILOCT because they benefit from the local services provided in their area. The MOD pays a contribution in-lieu of Council Tax to Local Authorities at the start of each financial year on behalf of all SP housed in Single Living Accommodation and Service Family Accommodation (SFA). SP will pay the same CILOCT charge for a property type irrespective of where in the UK they reside, removing the potential for there to be any geographic disadvantage/advantage from CILOCT.

Her Majesty's Government (HMG) announced on 3 February 2022 that qualifying households would receive a £150 rebate of Council Tax to assist with the increase in the cost of living caused by sharp rises in energy bills. To ensure that SP are not disadvantaged because of their military Service, the MOD devised a scheme that mirrored the intent of the HMG scheme to deliver a £150 rebate of CILOCT. SP paying CILOCT for Types A – 5 SFA as of 1 April 2022 qualified as eligible and c.31,000 SP received £150 rebate in 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). 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