

Ref: FOI2023/01609

6 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information about Continuance the West Midlands Veterans Advisory Pensions Committee:

"I am the CEO of a charity that gives grants to service and ex-service families for their children where their education has been compromised or put at risk as a result of their parent's service.

Over 25% of our applications are related to Continuity of Education allowance (CEA) - mainly the loss of it due to changes in circumstance, a child moving to 6th form, leaving the forces etc and thus a significant proportion of the grants we give go towards independent / state boarding fees.

The trustees have tasked me with finding out:

- 1. how many serving personnel are currently in receipt of CEA*
- 2. breakdown of CEA recipients by rank and service*
- 3. Breakdown of CEA by key- stage of education or at the very least prep/ secondary.*
- 4. breakdown between independent and state boarding*

I am therefore submitting a Freedom of Information request for this information.

The information would only be used internally to help ensure we are able to find the families most in need of our grants".

In your further email received on 7 February 2023 you clarified details of the request, stating:

"Data for Spring 2022 for question 4 would be find thank you. Would you be able to separate out numbers for the different schools or do you not have this information?"

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 MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held.

Please find the datasets for the information requested at Annex A.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (advice and assistance) you may be interested to know that during the most recent Parliamentary session two Parliamentary Questions related to CEA have been responded to at the links below:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/h15280>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/h15283>

If you wish to complain about 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 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)

Q1 & Q2 - The number of serving personnel currently in receipt of CEA by rank and service

Rank	Army	RAF	Navy	Grand Total
OF1	-	~	~	10
OF2	200	70	20	290
OF3	220	100	50	370
OF4	330	110	50	490
OF5	180	50	30	250
OF6	60	10	~	80
OF7	20	~	~	20
OF8	~	~	~	10
OF9	~	-	~	~
OR2	20	10	~	40
OR3	60	~	~	60
OR4	230	30	10	270
OR6	290	70	20	380
OR7	270	50	20	340
OR8	200	-	~	200
OR9	70	20	~	100
Grand Total	2150	530	220	2900

*All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Q3 - Breakdown of CEA by academic year group as of Spring term, 2022

	Year Group	Spring 2022
Junior education	3	56
	4	133
	5	189
	6	294
Senior education	7	492
	8	519
	9	571
	10	535
	11	527
	12	367
	13	346
	BLANK*	30
	TOTAL	4059

*BLANK is an adjustment or recovery of CEA and should be deducted.

Q4 - Breakdown between independent and state boarding as of Spring 2022

School type	Number of pupils
Independent	3470
State boarding	569
Total	4039