



Ministry
of Defence



FOI2021/06592

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk



13 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 June 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'I'm interested in finding out where and what the Senior Rate Mess fess for HMS Collingwood WO/SR Mess have been spent on in the year 2020/21 during the pandemic.

Considering the mess halls have been closed for the duration of a Pandemic and Facilities are very limited, the fees have remained the same.

why is this and what have they been spent on?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In response to your request, I can advise you that during the COVID-19 pandemic, military subscription income has continued to cover the running and support costs of the HMS Collingwood Warrant Officer (WO) and Senior Rate (SR) Mess. Specifically, during 2020/21 the WO&SRs Mess have continued to run the following during the pandemic:

- WO&SRs Mess has remained open throughout pandemic and facilities available with COVID Gov Guidelines in place.
- Sky contract still being paid with extra TVs fitted and cable work in the main lounge.
- Newspapers in mess lounge costs remained.

- Coffee/t-boat area and contract for 2 large coffee machine maintenance.
- Reduced mess fees for members during COVID (HMS Collingwood only WO&SRs mess establishment to do this) no mess fees for two months then reduced mess fees through second wave of COVID.
- Online raffles prizes during COVID all funded by WO&SRs Mess.
- Welfare Christmas funding to our Veterans – Large boxes of food was sent to all our Veterans as a thank you for their support over the years.
- Mess bar area walls all painted, new carpet, new bar and new sporting memorabilia. All curtains, seats and chairs dry cleaned.
- Maintenance in WO&SRs mess a lot of it not covered by Defence Infrastructure Organisation contract.
- Running Costs of the actual fund: bank charges, audit fees.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may find it useful to know that non-public funds are more commonly known as Service Funds and comprise of money, stock and other assets, none of which are Crown property. They are used by and for the benefit of Service personnel to promote their well-being and efficiency.

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). 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section