



# Ministry of Defence

## Defence Business Services

Secretariat  
Room 6229  
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Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2024/09962

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

[Redacted]

03 July 2024

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 28 May 2024 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

*"I would appreciate confirmation of the number of service personnel's children in receipt of subsidised school fees and the total cost of that subsidy."*

And your further clarification on 6 June confirming:

*"I am requesting confirmation of how many children of Service Personnel are in receipt of CEA/DSA. This request relates solely to school fees only. I would appreciate confirmation of the total cost of CEA/DSA for the financial year 2023/24 i.e. the total value paid to Service Personnel."*

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 that all the information in scope of your request is held, however, in order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 2018, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by supplementing numbers less than five with an X. 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.

Period	Category	Cost	Child Count
FY2324	CEA	£85.05M	3,950
	CEA Guardian	£0.03M	[X]
	DSA NW	£0.97M	80
	SENA	£2.30M	100
<b>FY2324 Total</b>		<b>£88.35M</b>	<b>4,070</b>

Please note that 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.


Please also note that a child can have more than one type of CEA attributed across a financial year.

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 Defence Business Services Secretariat.

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