



Ministry of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5, ZONE B, MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

RT HON DR ANDREW MURRISON MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER
FOR DEFENCE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

File Ref 16410 and 16412

20 March 2024

Dear Neil,

Thank you for your Written Parliamentary Questions (UIN 16410 and 16412) of 29 February 2024, requesting the following information:

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to help increase the number of cadets enrolled in cadet forces sponsored by his Department; what targets his Department has set for increasing cadet numbers in cadet forces sponsored by his Department in each of the next three years; and how much funding his Department has made available to help expand cadet numbers in cadet forces sponsored by his Department in the same period. 16410
- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to help increase the number of cadets enrolled in school-based cadet units; what targets his Department has set for increasing cadet numbers in school-based cadet units in each of the next three years; and how much funding his Department has made available to help expand cadet numbers in school-based cadet units in the same period. 16412

You will recall that I responded on 8 March 2024 to advise that it would take time to collate the requested information. I have now received advice from my officials to address your questions.

We are focussed on delivering the cadet experience by concentrating on the overall offer and ensuring that it remains attractive and challenging. Expansion of the Cadet Forces is supported, but no specific targets for growth are identified, except within the exception of the Sea Cadets which is planning to increase numbers by an additional 2500 cadets by 2028.

Neil O'Brien MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The ongoing joint Department for Education/Ministry of Defence Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP) is increasing the number of cadets in school-based cadet units. We are working to encourage sustainable growth up to 60,000 cadets in 500 schools across the UK. Defence's annual funding contributions are shown in the below table, and cover CEP across the UK.

Financial Year (FY)	
FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
£2.8 million	£3.6 million

From FY 2024/25 the level of funding was set at £3.6 million per year as it was anticipated that the 60,000 total would have been achieved.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Murrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "A".

RT HON DR ANDREW MURRISON MP