

Chairman of the Trustees of the South Atlantic Fund

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Prime Minister

A.S.C. 8/11

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VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF  
(PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS)

VCDS(P&L) 19/5

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

8 December 1982

*Dear Prime Minister,*

As you requested at our meeting on 29 November I have had a further look at the Services' Benevolent Funds attitudes to the continuance of private education for children of Servicemen killed or invalided from the Service. You also asked for a note on the subject.

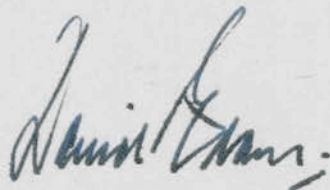
I confirm what I told you about the RAF (although I was less certain about the Army and Navy policy) in that the RAF Benevolent Fund's policy is one of maintaining the expectations for children, ie continuance at school through to 'O' and 'A' level as appropriate, or entry to a school at the appropriate age if that was a fair and reasonable expectation. As I also emphasised, the Fund does not aim necessarily to improve on such parental expectations and would not normally fund the move of a child to a more expensive school, except in unusual family circumstances where each case would be judged on individual merit. However, the Fund would not simply take on total responsibility for full payment of all educational costs. Initially, they would take into account the fact that Service Boarding School Allowance would continue for a short period (at least for one term and in some circumstances for up to two years). They would then arrange a scheme drawing aid from County Councils, the schools themselves, other bursaries which may be available to the RAF, and then finally make a grant from the RAF Benevolent Fund in the form of an educational bursary. Some parental contribution is also normally expected, depending upon family circumstances.

As I expected - although I was not absolutely certain - the Royal Navy and Royal Marines also have similar arrangements through the King George's Fund for Sailors, as do the Army through the Army Benevolent Fund. In all cases sympathy and generosity prevails and, where circumstances subsequently change and it becomes necessary to help to send a child to boarding school - for example where a mother remarries and moves abroad - bursaries would normally be awarded.

Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under  
FOI Exemption. *Wayland, 19 February 2013*

Both the Secretary of  
the King George's Fund for Sailors and the Secretary of the  
South Atlantic Fund have been in touch with her and with her  
solicitor on this matter.

As you already know, the South Atlantic Fund will, of course,  
provide appropriate financial support to ensure continuity of  
Schooling for all who have been affected by the Falklands operation  
and the Services' Benevolent Funds are fully aware of this. You  
may also wish to know that schooling requirements are being  
included specifically in the longer term financial assessments  
currently being made.



Chairman of Trustees  
South Atlantic Fund



lv  
Argentina

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 December, 1982.

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 8 December describing the provision made by the Services Benevolent Funds for the continuance of private education for children of servicemen killed or invalided from the Service.

A. J. COLES

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans, GCB, CBE,  
CBIM, RAF,  
Ministry of Defence.

BTC