

**DANNY KRUGER MP**  
FOR EAST WILTSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Stephen Morgan MP  
Minister for Early Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: DK19313 RH

7 October 2024

Dear Stephen

I am writing regarding the proposal to add VAT to private school fees from January 2025, which will undoubtedly affect many families negatively (especially private school pupils with special educational needs, who I plan to write to you about separately). I am sending this letter as I am increasingly concerned by how military families specifically are going to be impacted by the addition of private school fees from the start of next year, and that this is likely to lead to soldiers withdrawing from our Armed Forces at the very time we need them most.

My constituency is home to largest number of soldiers and their families of any constituency in the country, many of whom are facing great uncertainty at not being able to afford their children's school fees. One recently wrote to me: "I am a service family. I deploy across the world at the country's request. Continuity of education is critical to my child. It would be very hard to find the extra VAT bill on Private School education as set out by the Government in the latest King's Speech. Moving every two years would require us to withdraw our son from the state sector and make it challenging, to say the least, to find a school of choice near our service family accommodation, often with little to no notice of where we may be stationed."

I understand almost 5,000 children from military and diplomatic families who are in receipt of the Continuity of Education Allowance will be affected by these changes, and that many military families have threatened to quit our Armed Forces if their children are not given an exemption.

The families who will be hit by this decision are hardworking people who want continuity for their children in the face of the upheaval that comes with serving in the military. They are people who are already spending significant amounts of money to do so.

I am writing to request that an exemption for VAT on fees be considered for military families in receipt of Continuity of Education Allowance who educate their children at private schools. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Danny

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Kruger', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Danny Kruger**  
MP for the East Wiltshire Constituency