

MOD ASSESSMENT OF SUPPORTABILITY OVERSEAS (MASO) **Information Leaflet**

This leaflet outlines the process to be followed, prior to an overseas assignment and in accordance with JSP 770 (and/or the EHE DIN), for assessing the supportability of children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and/or all children accessing/intending to access Elective Home Education (EHE).

What is a MASO?

The MASO is a process for assessing whether the resources and support required for a child with additional needs are available in an overseas command/setting. The MASO also gives education, health and social care teams time to prepare for the child's arrival to support smooth transitions.

The MASO process can also be used to assess the supportability of all children where parents intend to EHE in the overseas area.

How can I find out what services are available overseas to support my child's additional needs?

MOD provided DCS Schools/Settings publish their Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) provision on their individual websites or upon request.

International Schools should also be able to provide details of their SEND provision on their individual websites or upon request.

Who is the MASO process for?

In relation to the Educational Supportability Assessment, a MASO can be raised for any child who:

- has additional support in a school or setting due to SEND,
- has current involvement from other agencies such as health or social care,
- has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or devolved administration equivalent e.g., Statement of Special Educational Needs (N Ireland), a Coordinated Support Plan (Scotland), an Individual Development Plan (Wales) or a SCAN Support Plan (DCS),
- has needs emerging whilst in the overseas area which may require a re-assessment of educational supportability through the Emerging Needs MASO (ENMASO) process.

How do I start the MASO process?

All children (**0-18**), accompanying their parents on an overseas assignment, require Confirmation of Educational Supportability (see Educational Supportability Assessment - Information Leaflet 100).

For all overseas areas parents must complete an Educational Supportability Assessment Request (OES Form 101) and send it to:

- the receiving DCS School/Setting, or
- the Overseas Education & Supportability (OES) team (if no DCS School/Setting provision is available).

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DCS Schools/Settings or the OES team will request that your child's current school complete the OES Form 102 (for children 5-18) or OES Form 103 (for children 0-5), or OES Form 104 (for children currently in EHE – to be completed by the parent). Through gathering this information, if a MASO is required, the DCS School/Setting will inform the OES team, who will then raise a MASO with Local Command in the overseas setting.

What information is needed for the MASO?

Up-to-date reports and assessments (e.g., School Report, Speech & Language Therapy, Educational Psychology, outreach workers or CAMHS etc). Depending on the contents of the OES Forms 102, 103 or 104, you or your child's school may be required to provide additional documentation or information.

How long will the MASO take?

A MASO can take up to 9 weeks to complete, once all the required paperwork has been completed and sent to the DCS School/Setting or OES Team. For this reason, it is important for families to begin the supportability assessment as soon as they are aware of their assignment (please note: confirmation of educational supportability will only be issued 6 months prior to the assignment).

Important Note: You should not proceed with your assignment until you have received the outcome of the MASO process.

Who is involved in the MASO?

The MASO involves command and professionals from education, health and/or social care with similar responsibilities to those working with your child in the UK. This may include, but is not limited to:

Chain of Command/Overseas Local Command:

- sending and receiving.

Education:

- DCS Schools.
- DCS Specialist Services (e.g., Educational Psychology, Speech & Language, Education Advisors, Safeguarding etc).

Health & Social Care (as appropriate):

- Overseas SMOs and/or Global Medical Practice.
- Supporting agencies e.g., SSAFA (including Health Visitors, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services – CAMHS, Speech and Language Therapy etc).
- Social Care (e.g., British Forces Social Work Service, as needed).

Who makes the decision about the MASO?

The Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) mentioned above will consider the documentation that has been provided and offer their professional view to the overseas Local Command about whether a child's needs can be met overseas.

The receiving overseas Local Command will convene a panel meeting to discuss and inform their final decision and then notify the sending Chain of Command of the outcome of the MASO (wherever possible, within 5 working days of the panel meeting). The sending Chain of Command will inform the Serving Person and make a recommendation to the Service Assignment Authority.

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What if I am not happy with the decision?

Parents may appeal the decision, and details of how to do this will be shared within the 'Decision Letter' circulated by the overseas Local Command (appeals should usually be in writing and sent to the overseas Local Command within 20 working days of the Decision Letter).

The MASO Appeal process will follow a similar pattern as the MASO process. In the event of an appeal, a review panel will be convened with independent personnel not involved with the original supportability decision to ensure impartiality.

Are many families advised not to move overseas?

Families will only be advised not to take up an overseas assignment when the resources and support required to meet a child's needs are not available in the overseas location or they would be disadvantaged by a posting overseas.

Early knowledge of a child's needs will help services to prepare for the child's arrival overseas and ensure a smooth transition and continuity of education, health and social care provision.

How can I find out more information about MASOs?

For all overseas areas you can contact the OES team for further general information or specific details about a particular MASO (see contact details below).

Contact Details:

Overseas Education & Supportability (OES) team
Defence Children Services (DCS)
Specialist Support Services
Upavon, Wiltshire

Email: RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk