



This biannual Bulletin provides summary statistics on claims and awards made under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), paying compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service.

This report has been provided in response to the increasing number of requests for information about claims and awards under the scheme, and the number of individuals currently in receipt of ongoing compensation. A range of information is requested including further details of claims and awards (e.g. number of people awarded for a particular illness/injury) and further information on those awarded compensation (e.g. the number of people awarded AFCS compensation who deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan). This report is used by external organisations such as NHS trusts, local Government and Armed Forces charities. This report is also used to support other MOD departments in work planning and policy development.

NOTE: There are currently ongoing investigations into the accuracy of outcome data for a small proportion of AFCS claims. Therefore all outcome information presented within this Statistical Bulletin, as extracted from the Compensation and Pensions System has been

Key Points

Injury claims. Between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016:

- 64,541^P injury/illness claims were registered under the scheme. The number of initial injury/illness claims registered increased year on year, due to a raised awareness of the scheme, as well as larger numbers who were eligible to claim.
- 34,767^P (56%^P) of initial injury/illness claims cleared were awarded a lump sum award. An additional 1,633^P (3%^P) were also awarded an ongoing Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP), of which 896 were in receipt of the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP).
- The average (median) clearance time for initial injury/illness claims was three and a half calendar months (71 working days).
- Over £473M was paid out in the form of lump sum awards under the scheme, and over £76M paid out in the form of GIPs.

Survivors' claims. Between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016:

- 868^P survivors' claims were registered under the scheme. 336^P (39%^P) survivors' claims were awarded, resulting in 295 eligible partners and 328 children being in receipt of ongoing payments under the scheme.
- The average (median) clearance time for Survivors' claims was two and a half calendar months (52 working days).
- Over £51M was paid out in the form of Survivors' GIPs.

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Background Quality Report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk

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Other bulletins in this series can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

Supplementary tables (Annex A) containing all data presented in this publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

Introduction

1. These statistics present summary information on the UK Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) as at 31 March 2016.
2. The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pension Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme.
3. In previous reports figures were presented in line with Defence Statistics rounding policy. This policy has now been superseded by the JSP 200 and figures are presented in line with the disclosure control guidelines. See further information in the Background Quality Report.
4. All tables provided in previous releases of this report have been updated with 2015/16 data and are available in the separate Excel file at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>
5. The MOD also produces an annual National Statistic on the War Pension Scheme (WPS) and an annual Official Statistic on the location of pension and compensation recipients. These publications can be found at the following links:
 - WPS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>
 - Location Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>

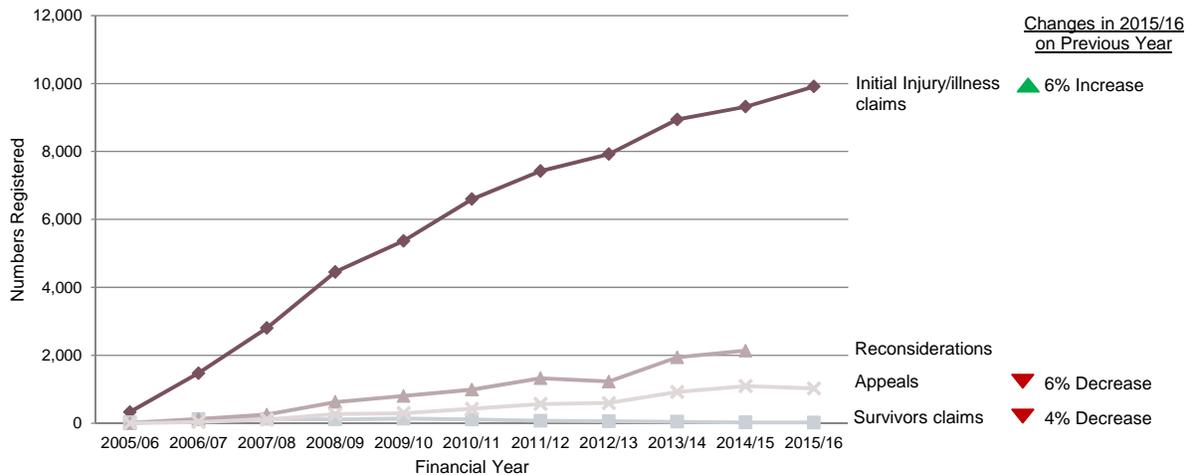
Results: Flow Chart



Results: Registered Claims

6. This section provides the overall numbers of injury/illness claims, survivors' claims, reconsiderations and appeals registered and cleared under the scheme. This is provided to show the volume of claims that are dealt with under the scheme, the success rates associated with each type of claim and the key trends over time. This section will also include information on reconsiderations and appeals registered and cleared.
7. Since the start of the AFCS (6 April 2005), 64,451 claims have been registered. Numbers of registered initial injury/illness claims have increased each year (**Figure 1**) to 9,909 in 2015/16. This was partly due to a raised awareness of the scheme. The majority of initial injury/illness claims were by personnel still in-Service (average of 75% since the start of AFCS). Unlike the WPS claimants do not have to wait until they have left Service in order to submit a claim; however under AFCS a claim does have to be submitted within seven years of the injury/onset of illness.

Figure 1: AFCS claims registered, by claim type¹ and financial year, numbers
6 April 2005² to 31 March 2016



Source: Compensation and Pensions System

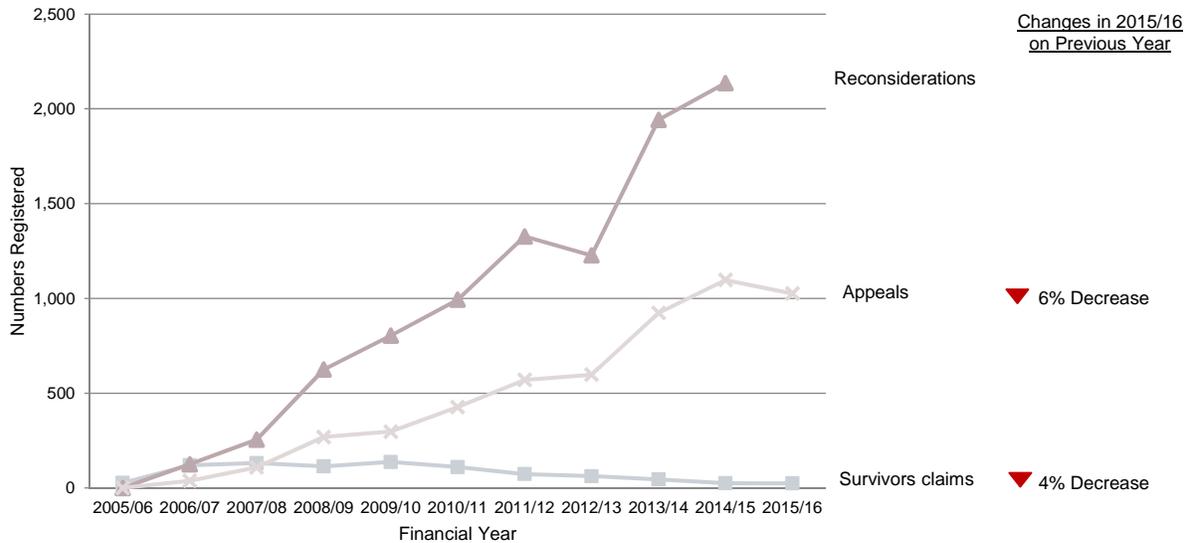
1. The number of reconsiderations registered in the latest financial year has not been presented due to data quality issues. See paragraph 9 and Background Quality Report for more information.
 2. The AFCS scheme began on 6 April 2005.
8. The initial injury/illness claims for medical discharges did not follow the increase seen across the other initial injury/illness claims and have decreased since 2011/12. Numbers of registered medical discharge claims each year were low compared to the total number of medical discharges each year¹. This was likely a result of more Service personnel claiming under the AFCS prior to their medical discharge, and therefore their claim being registered as an in-Service claim. Additionally, medically discharged personnel were required to meet a set of eligibility criteria in order to have a medical discharge claim automatically registered under the AFCS, for example, individuals who had served for less than two years were not automatically considered, along with Tier 1 medical discharges (medical discharges for injuries/illnesses of lower severity). Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found in the Background Quality Report.

¹ As published in the MOD annual medical discharge statistics on the Gov.uk website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>.

Results: Registered Claims (cont.)

9. The numbers of reconsiderations has continued to increase each year to 2,136 in 2014/15 due to the increase in numbers of initial claims (**Figure 2**). The number of reconsiderations registered had not been updated since the previous report (as at 30 September 2015) due to data quality issues. Please refer to the Background Quality Report for more information.
10. The numbers of registered appeals reduced in 2015/16 for the first time since the start of the scheme. It is not currently known why the numbers of appeals reduced, though this could be an indication that more claimants were content with the outcome of their initial claim and any subsequent reconsideration.
11. Since the AFCS began, 868^p survivors' claims were registered under the scheme. Annual numbers of registered survivors' claims have decreased each year from 137 in 2009/10 to 24 in 2015/16 (**Figure 2**). This reflects the decrease in the number of deaths related to Service, and particularly a decrease in the numbers of operational deaths as a result of the drawdown of Operations in Afghanistan².

Figure 2: AFCS survivors' claims, reconsiderations¹ and appeals registered, by claim type and financial year, numbers
6 April 2005² to 31 March 2016



Source: Compensation and Pensions System

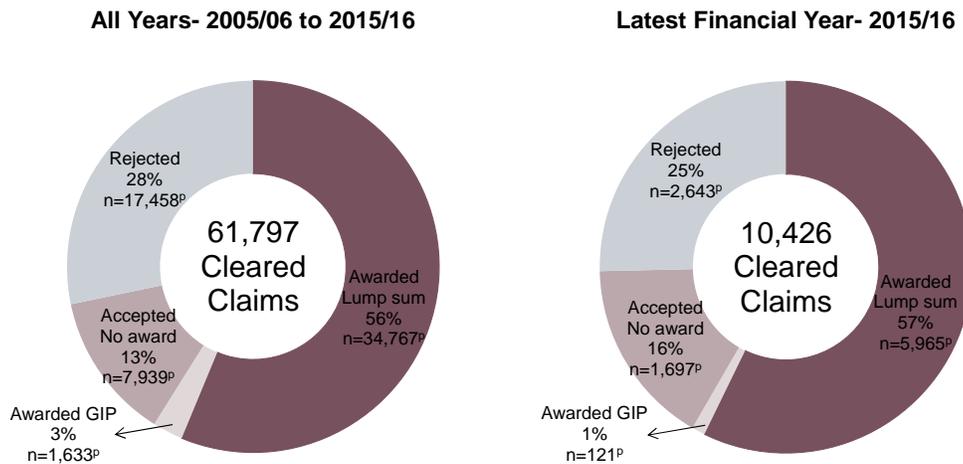
1. The number of reconsiderations registered in the latest financial year has not been presented due to data quality issues. See paragraph 9 and Background Quality Report for more information.
 2. The AFCS scheme began on 6 April 2005.
12. **Table 1 in Annex A** provides further detail on annual numbers of registered claims by claim type.

² As published in the MOD annual statistics on deaths among the regular Armed Forces on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-deaths-in-service-statistics-index>.

Results: Claim Outcomes

13. Due to the complexities of the data held on claim outcomes at each stage of the claim process, it was not currently possible to follow through any claims that reached the reconsideration/appeal stage (see paragraph 51 for further details). Therefore this section and **Tables 2-3 and 11-17 in Annex A** present only the outcomes of initial injury/illness claims and not the final outcome of each case.
14. Recent investigations into the data have led to some concern over the accuracy of outcome information recorded for some claims. The extent of this issue was unknown. It was unlikely that any inaccuracies will impact on overall trends of cleared claim outcomes. However, outcome information presented within this Statistical Bulletin and relevant tables in **Annex A** has been marked provisional (p) until investigations are complete and any incorrect records have been amended.
15. Since the start of the AFCS, 61,797^p claims have been cleared. The number of initial injury/illness claims cleared each year has continued to increase (**Table 2, Annex A**), in line with the increase in registered claims each year. However, 2013/14 showed a peak in the number of cleared injury claims. This was due to a reorganisation and simplification of processes by Veterans UK at that time to clear a backlog of claims for both the AFCS and the WPS. A similar trend was apparent for cleared claims under the WPS, presented in the WPS annual statistics, published 2 June 2016. Subsequently as a result of more claims being cleared, more claims were also awarded in 2013/14.
16. As initial injury/illness claims account for the majority of AFCS claims, a summary of the outcomes for cleared initial injury/illness claims is presented in **Figure 3**. A comparison was made between claim outcomes since the start of the scheme and those in the latest financial year (2015/16). During the latest financial year almost two-thirds^p of cleared initial injury/illness claims were awarded lump sum compensation. The proportions of awarded injury/illness claims followed a similar pattern to those overall since the scheme began.

Figure 3: AFCS cleared initial injury/illness claims by initial outcome, overall and in the latest financial year, numbers and percentage of cleared claims
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2016



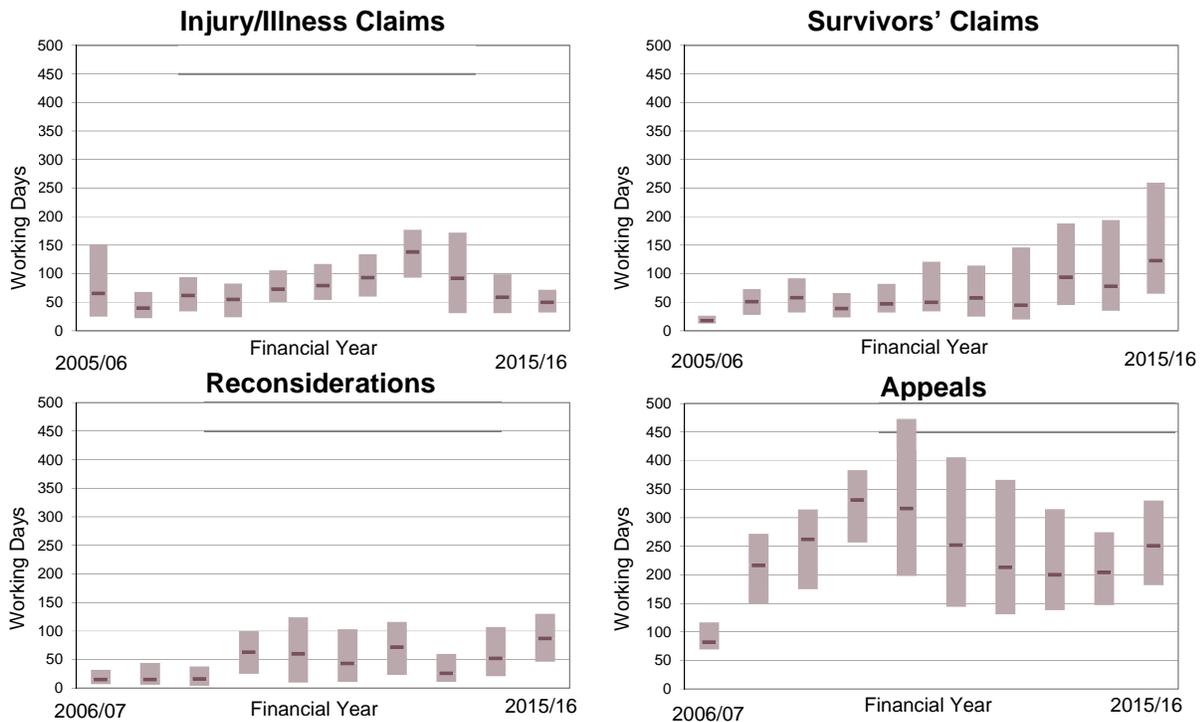
Results: Claim Outcomes (cont.)

17. In comparison, nearly three-quarters (74%^p) of survivors' claims cleared between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016 were rejected (**Table 2** in **Annex A**). There were several reasons why death-in-Service claims would be rejected:
 - The claim may be for a death that was not attributable to Service.
 - Claims from eligible partners (rather than spouses) may be rejected if there was not sufficient evidence of financial dependency.
18. Between 6 April 2005 and 30 September 2015, 25%^p (n=2,614^p) of cleared injury/illness reconsiderations and 10%^p (n=8^p) of survivors' reconsiderations resulted in a successful outcome (new/increased award) (**Annex A, Table 4**).
19. Between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016, 55%^p (n=2,102^p) of cleared injury/illness appeals and 22%^p (n=7^p) of survivors' appeals resulted in a successful outcome (new/increased award or a favourable reconsideration) (**Annex A, Table 5**).
20. Further Information on cleared AFCS claims were presented by outcome in **Annex A**. Specifically, outcomes of initial injury/illness claims and initial survivors' claims were presented by financial year (**Table 2**). Outcomes of initial injury/illness claims and initial survivors' claims were also presented by quarter for the latest five quarters (**Table 3**), as were outcomes for reconsiderations (**Table 4**) and appeals (**Table 5**).

Results: Claim Clearance Times

21. This section presents information on the time taken to clear a claim. The average (median) has been provided as an indication of how long an average claimant can expect to wait for a decision. Clearance times have been calculated based on the number of working days between the registered date and the cleared date of the claim. The average (mean) is presented in **Annex A, Tables 6-9**.

Figure 4: AFCS claim clearance times, by claim type¹ and financial year, median average, upper quartile and lower quartile 2005/06² to 2015/16



1. The numbers of reconsiderations registered has not been updated since the previous report (as at 30 September 2015) due to data quality issues. See Background Quality Report for more information.
2. The AFCS scheme began on 6 April 2005.

22. Since the AFCS began, initial injury/illness claims were cleared, on average within three and a half calendar months (71 working days). Survivors' claims and reconsiderations took less time to clear (two and a half calendar months, or 52 and 47 working days respectively). Appeals took the longest time to clear (11 and a half calendar months or 231 working days).

23. The varying times taken to clear claims across the claim types was due to processing requirements. Appeals generally take longer to clear than other claim types due to the processes involved before a final decision can be made, for example gathering evidence and passing the case over to the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT).

Results: Claim Clearance Times (cont.)

24. The average clearance times for **injury/illness claims** have decreased over the last three financial years from a peak in 2012/13 of 138 working days to 50 working days in 2015/16. This decrease was due to changes in workload/resources at Veterans UK:
- The peak in clearance times in 2012/13 was partly due to a loss in resources at Veterans UK due to the MOD Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS). The peak was also driven by a shift in AFCS work priorities following the Lord Boyce Review of the AFCS. Resources at Veterans UK were redirected to uplift awards as a result of the Review, which impacted on the times taken to clear new AFCS cases.
 - During 2013/14 additional resources were allocated to AFCS workloads, resulting in the improvement seen in the average clearance times.
 - Veterans UK streamlined their processes during 2014/15 which resulted in further improvements in the clearance times.
25. The average time taken to clear **survivors' claims** was higher in 2015/16 (123 working days) than in previous years. The range of clearance times was wider than for initial injury/illness claims, which was due to the processes involved e.g. there were often delays in processing while evidence was gathered and relationship statuses were checked. The majority of survivors' claims were death in-Service cases, which usually took the longest to clear. This is because coroner's inquests needed to be completed before a decision could be made on the claim, resulting in delays in processing the claim.
26. For **reconsiderations** there was a peak in average clearance times in 2012/13. This was likely to be due to the change in resource priorities following the Lord Boyce review (see paragraph 24). The number of reconsiderations cleared had not been updated since the previous report (as at 30 September 2015) due to data quality issues. Please refer to the Background Quality Report for more information.
27. For **appeals** the average clearance times reached a peak of 331 working days in 2009/10. Prior to 2010 the quantities of appeal cases received were much lower than for other claim types and these cases were actioned by Veterans UK when resources were available. The numbers of appeals registered since 2010 increased and appropriate resource was allocated to these cases. This was reflected in the reduction in clearance times after 2009/10. Appeals generally showed a large range in clearance times, which was likely to be due to the varying complexity of appeals cases.

Results: Recipients of Lump Sum Payments and GIPs

28. Information on lump sum awards following an initial injury/illness claim under the AFCS was presented in **Annex A**. Note that there may have been unsuccessful initial injury/illness claims that went on to be awarded following reconsideration or appeal; such claims were not included within this section of the results.
29. Of the 61,797 injury/illness cleared claims, 36,400 were awarded a lump sum payment (**Annex A, Table 2**).
30. Of all 36,400 cleared initial injury/illness claims awarded a lump sum award as at 31 March 2016:
- The majority (n=30,650p, 84%p) were registered by personnel still in Service (**Table 11 in Annex A**).
 - 4%^p (n=1,633^p) were also awarded a GIP (**Table 13 in Annex A**).
 - Three quarters^p (n=26,762^p) of awarded claims were registered by Army personnel (**Table 15 in Annex A**) which was higher than expected given the strengths of the three Services³ (62% of the UK forces were Army) and the finding that the majority of claims registered were in-Service claims. This finding was replicated in recent statistics⁴ showing that the numbers of reported health and safety incidents on MOD property between 2010/11 and 2014/15 were statistically significantly higher for Army personnel than for the Naval Service and RAF.
 - Three-quarters^p (n=27,226^p) of claims were awarded to Service personnel and veterans aged 20-34 (**Table 16 in Annex A**).
 - Over a third^p (n=13,294^p) of claims were awarded to Service personnel and veterans living in the South West or South East of England (**Table 17 in Annex A**). This was expected since a larger proportion of Service personnel reside in these regions⁵. This finding was also replicated in the Annual Population Survey Official Statistic⁶.
31. Individuals can be awarded for more than one condition within a claim. 50,208 conditions were awarded for across the 36,400 awarded claims. Conditions are categorised within tariff of injury groups. Over 68%^p (n=34,134^p) of conditions were awarded within the tariff of injury groups of musculoskeletal (MSK) disorders or fractures and dislocations (**Table 14 in Annex A**). These were frequently reported as the most common types of Service-related injuries, and accounted for a large proportion of Service personnel that were medically discharged from Service⁷. The MOD was working towards reducing the prevalence of MSK disorders.

³ As published in the MOD monthly personnel statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-index>

⁴ As published in the MOD annual health and safety statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-personnel-health-and-safety-statistics-financial-year-201415>

⁵ As published in the MOD quarterly location statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-all-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-quarterly-statistics-index>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>

⁷ As published in the MOD annual medical discharge statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>.

Results: AFCS awards to those deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan

32. The MOD is frequently asked to provide the numbers of Service personnel and veterans that have been awarded compensation under the AFCS as a result of injuries sustained on Operations in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. However, this compensation scheme attributes injury/illness to Service and not a particular event during a Service person's career. Therefore **it was not possible to attribute AFCS claims/awards to a specific deployment.**
33. Due to the demand for this information this section presents the number of Service personnel and veterans awarded under the scheme who previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan. It is important to note that **these figures may include individuals awarded compensation for an injury/illness that did not occur during their deployment.**
34. Of the 36,400^P people awarded compensation for an initial claim for an injury/illness caused by Service as at 31 March 2016, a total of 19,587^P had deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan prior to their claim. Of these:
- 5,333^P individuals had deployed on Operations in Iraq only prior to the registered date of their claim.
 - 8,894^P individuals had deployed on Operations in Afghanistan only prior to the registered date of their claim.
 - 6,423^P individuals had deployed on Operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan prior to the registered date of their claim.

Results: Recipients of GIP, SGIP and AFIP payments

35. Information related to on-going financial payments was sourced directly from Veterans UK and not from Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) (the source for the information in the previous sections of this bulletin). Therefore please note figures presented in this section may not always correspond to those presented in previous sections.
36. **Tables 18-21 in Annex A** provide further information on individuals who have been awarded ongoing payments under the AFCS, covering those in receipt of both Guaranteed Income Payments (GIP) and Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payments (SGIP).
37. As at 31 March 2016:
- 2,015 individuals were in receipt of a GIP.
 - 295 spouses/eligible partners and 328 children were in receipt of a SGIP as a result of a death related to Service.
38. Service personnel and veterans awarded a GIP at 50% or above were automatically considered eligible for receipt of the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP).
39. As at 31 March 2016, 896 Service personnel and veterans were in receipt of AFIP. Please note this figure does not match the number of individuals who have a GIP award of 50% or above as presented in **Table 13 in Annex A** due to data quality issues (see paragraphs 13-14).

Results: Financial amounts paid out under the AFCS

40. **Table 22** in **ANNEX A** provides information on the financial amounts that have been paid out under the AFCS since the scheme began.
41. Since AFCS began on 6 April 2005, over £601M was paid under the scheme:
- Over £473M was paid out in lump sum payments.
 - Over £76M was paid out Guaranteed Income Payments.
 - Over £51M was paid out in Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payments.
42. The amount paid out in lump sum payments during 2011/12 was much higher compared to other financial years (over £126M). This was partly due to additional payments made following the Lord Boyce Review of the AFCS (see the background quality report for more information on the Review).
43. There was also a peak in the amount paid out in lump sums during 2013/14. This was driven by an increase in the number of cleared claims, during 2013/14. Additional resources were allocated to AFCS workloads to clear a backlog of cases following the Lord Boyce Review (see paragraph 24 for more information).
44. The financial amounts paid out in the form of lump sum payments and Guaranteed/Survivors' Income payments in 2015/16 increased from 2014/15 (**Annex A, Table 22**). This was due to a higher number of claims that have been cleared and subsequently a higher number of awarded claims.
45. The annual amounts paid out in Guaranteed Income Payments increased year on year. This was expected as the amounts paid each year represent all ongoing payments and not just those awarded in the that year.

Methodology

This section provides a brief summary of the methodology and data sources; more detailed information is available in the background quality report for this bulletin.

Data Sources

46. Most of the information presented within this Statistical Bulletin was sourced from AFCS data held on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) which is managed by Veterans UK who are responsible for administering the scheme. Veterans UK are responsible for ensuring the quality of the data supplied to Defence Statistics.
47. Defence Statistics receive quarterly datasets from the Veterans UK finance team which were used to report on recipients of Guaranteed Income Payments. Information on the overall financial amounts paid out under the AFCS was also sourced from the Finance Team.
48. Information on those in receipt of the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) are recorded by Veterans UK in an excel spreadsheet. These data were used to provide the number of individuals in receipt of AFIP.

Data Coverage

49. The data presented include all regular and reservist personnel and dependants who have claimed for compensation under the AFCS between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016. Individuals were eligible to claim under the AFCS for any injury/illness/death caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005.
50. Although the figures presented cover all claims registered during the reported time period, the figures do not represent all individuals who have sustained a Service related injury/illness during that time. There can be a time lag between an individual's injury/illness and the date they make a claim. Individuals have up to seven years to make an injury/illness claim from the date of their initial injury/diagnosis. There are some exceptions to this such as late-onset illnesses. Claims for a late-onset illness can be made at any time after the event to which it relates, as long as it is done so within three years of seeking medical advice. Families have up to three years to make a claim as a result of a death caused by Service.
51. The figures presented on lump sum awards made under the AFCS were based on awards made as a result of initial injury/illness claims only. Figures for any new awards made as a result of a reconsideration or appeal were not included in these tables. The MOD is planning to develop the report to present final claim outcomes. Please note however that Tables 4 and 5 (Annex A) do provide separately, the overall outcomes of cleared reconsiderations and appeals.
52. Please note that some information on the outcomes of appeals made under the AFCS was not recorded on CAPS and was therefore not presented in this report. Veterans UK record all registered appeals on CAPS. However only outcomes at the first stage of the appeal process (First Tier Tribunal) are recorded on CAPS. Information on appeals that progress to further stages (e.g. Upper Tier Tribunal) are dealt with offline. The MOD are working with Veterans UK to investigate including this information in future reports.

Methodology (cont.)

53. The number of registered reconsiderations during the first six months of 2015/16 (**Table 1** in **Annex A**) was lower than we would have expected, based on the numbers registered in previous years. Defence Statistics are working with Veterans UK to investigate this. In the meantime the number of data was therefore presented as at 30 September 2015.

Calculation of claim clearance times

54. Information on AFCS claim clearance times has been presented as a median average with an inter-quartile range, rather than a mean average and standard deviation as these statistics were affected less by outliers. An outlier is an observation within a dataset that appears to be inconsistent with the remainder of the dataset.

- The median is the value in the centre of the data set when they are arranged from smallest to largest.
- A quartile is any of three values (first/lower quartile, second quartile (median), third/upper quartile) that divides the sorted (from smallest value to largest value) dataset into four equal parts. The lower quartile (LQ) is the value that at which 25% of the values in the dataset will be below. The upper quartile (UQ) is the value that at which 75% of the values in the dataset will be below.
- The inter-quartile range (IQR) is the range in which the middle 50% of the data points fall (i.e. the distance between the lower and upper quartile). The longer the inter-quartile range the wider the spread of data.

55. Further information on the techniques used to investigate clearance times can be found in the accompanying Background Quality Report and in **Annex A**.

Strengths and weaknesses of the data presented in this report

56. This report combines data captured across a variety of Veterans UK databases to present a single source of information on claims, awards and payments made under the AFCS. These statistics can be used by MOD to monitor trends over time.

57. Due to the complexities of the data held on claim outcomes at each stage of the claim process, these statistics currently present initial injury/illness claim outcomes separately to outcomes of any subsequent registered reconsiderations and appeals. Defence Statistics has begun to combine outcome data in order to present the final outcome for each case. However initial investigation has led to some concern over the accuracy of outcome information recorded for some claims. The extent of this issue was currently unknown and therefore all outcome information presented within this Statistical Bulletin has been marked provisional until investigations are complete and any incorrect records have been amended.

Glossary

Appeal	If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of their claim they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.
Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)	Compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve forces. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death attributable to service where the cause occurred on or after 6 April 2005.
Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)	On 8 April 2013 the MOD, in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), introduced a new benefit called the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) . The AFIP is a simplification of the financial support available for members of the Armed Forces who have been seriously injured as a result of Service since 6 April 2005. The AFIP provides eligible recipients with on-going payments to help with the additional costs associated with their injuries.
Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS)	Pension available to members of the Regular Armed Forces who have served for a minimum of two years. AFPS 75 – Introduced in 1975 and closed to new members from 6 April 2005. Pension benefits are based on rank and time served AFPS 05 – Introduced on 6 April 2005. Pension benefits are based on time served and final salary.
Claim	The term 'claim' is used to refer to both injury claims raised by claimant as well as medical discharge and death-in-service cases which are automatically referred to Veterans UK for consideration.
Cleared Claim	A claim is classed as cleared when Veterans UK issue a letter to the claimant informing them of the outcome of their claim, reconsideration, or appeal.
Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)	AFPS and AFCS database system.
Guaranteed Income Payment	A Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) is a payable when an award has been made and the injury or illness is in tariff levels 1 to 11.
Injury/illness claim	Claims made by serving or former members of the Armed Forces for an injury or illness caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005. They include in-Service claims, medical discharge claims and

post-Service claims.

Inter-quartile range

The inter-quartile range is the largest minus the smallest number in the middle 50% of the data.

Lord Boyce Review

In 2010 a review of the AFCS was conducted under the independent chairmanship of former Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral the Lord Boyce. The Review found the Scheme was fundamentally sound but required adjustment in some areas. A full summary of the Review can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans#review-of-the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme>.

Lump Sum Award

A tax-free lump sum payment is paid to a Service or ex-Service person as compensation for pain and suffering for an injury or illness that is predominantly caused or made worse by Service.

Median Average

The median of a finite list of numbers can be found by arranging all the values from lowest to highest and picking the middle value.

Medical Discharge Claim

Personnel medically discharged from Service will have a claim automatically registered under the AFCS if they meet certain criteria. Please see the BQR for more information.

MOD Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS)

The MOD introduced the VERS off the back of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), published in October 2010. The Prime Minister stated his ambition was to “ensure that as many of the job losses as possible are found through voluntary redundancy and retirement, rather than making people redundant.

Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT)

The PAT hears appeals from servicemen and servicewomen who have disagreed with the decision made by Veterans UK on the outcome of their claim.

Reconsideration

If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of their claim they may ask for Veterans UK to reconsider their claim.

Registered Claim

A claim is classed as registered when Veterans UK begin a workflow on the CAPS for a claim.

Spanning Cases

Spanning Cases are claims considered first for entitlement under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, but passed to the War

Pensions Scheme where the cause or injury occurred prior to 6 April 2005.

Survival Analysis

Survival Analysis analyses the time duration until the event of interest occurs. In this case that is when a registered claim has been cleared.

Survivor's Claim

Claims made by surviving dependents of former Armed Forces Personnel where death was caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005. They include death-in-Service claims, death-post-Service claims and additional child claims. One awarded survivors' claim may result in multiple payments (e.g. to a spouse and children).

Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payment

A Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP) is a taxable payment designed to compensate an individual for loss of financial support following the death of their partner/spouse as a result of Service.

Tariff Levels

The AFCS Tariff has 15 levels from 1 (most severe) to 15 (least severe). Each tariff level has a corresponding level of lump sum payment.

Veterans UK

Veterans UK administer the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.

War Pension Scheme (WPS)

No fault compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve force. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death caused or made worse by service from the start of WW1 in 1914 to 5 April 2005. Personnel are only eligible to claim once they have left the Services.

Working days

Any day in which legal business can be conducted. In this report, working days exclude Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Further Information

Symbols

~	Figure has been suppressed due to Statistical Disclosure Control
-	Not calculated due to value of zero (Please note this symbol was used to refer to values of zero in previous AFCS publications – zero values are now shown as '0')
p	Provisional
r	Revised
Q1	1 April to 30 June
Q2	1 July to 30 September
Q3	1 October to 31 December
Q4	1 January to 31 March

Disclosure Control

In line with JSP 200 (April 2016), the suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals. If a disclosure control method has been applied to a table, the method is stated in the footnotes. For further information on statistical disclosure control see Background Quality Report.

Revisions

The AFCS statistics are subject to routine revisions as the CAPS is a live data system and historic data may be amended on the CAPS between data extracts (see Background Quality report for further information). Any revisions to historic data as a result of amended information on the CAPS can be identified by a revision marker ('r') and are only discussed if such revisions are considered to have impact on the findings.

Following the release of the previous statistics (as at 30 September 2015) errors were identified in the processing of data to compile summary statistics on awarded initial injury/illness claims by tariff of injury table and tariff level (**Table 14** in **Annex A**). Full details of the processing error and its impact on the results are discussed in the Background Quality Report. All affected figures in table 10 have been marked with an 'r'.

There may be a delay in data entry on CAPS and therefore figures for the latest time period are routinely marked provisional ('p').

Scheme information

Further information on the AFPS, WPS and AFCS can be found on the Gov.UK website:

AFPS: <https://www.gov.uk/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans>

WPS and AFCS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation>

Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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Email: DefStrat-Stat-Health-Hd@mod.uk

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

Further Information (cont.)

Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

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