



Ministry of Defence

War Pension Scheme Annual Statistics 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2019

Published 27th June 2019

This annual bulletin provides summary statistics on claims, awards and recipients of pensions, allowances or other payments under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) between 2009/10 and 2018/19. The WPS is a no-fault scheme, which financially compensates for injury/illness and death caused by service in the UK Armed Forces from the start of the First World War in 1914 until 5 April 2005.

Key Points

As at 31 March 2019

There were,



97,566 disablement pensioners & **14,626** war widow(er)s in receipt of a war pension.

Of which,



53% & **89%** were of retirement age (65+).

Subsequently,

36% of supplementary allowances were paid out in the form of age addition allowances.



282 War Pension claimants with mesothelioma had elected to receive the lump sum payment instead of a regular disablement pension.

These recipients were additional to the 97,566 disablement pensioners in receipt of a war pension.

During the financial year 2018/19

There were,

2,924 first disablement claims cleared. & **654** war widow(er)s' claims cleared. Of which, **75%** & **46%** were awarded compensation.

A total of: **£506.8M** was paid to disablement pensioners*



£190.5M was paid to war widow(er)s.

*of which **£10.5M** was paid in lump sum form to compensate for mesothelioma.

On average it took:



Nine months to clear first disablement claims.

Within one month to clear war widow(er)s' claims.

13 months to clear appeals¹.

¹ The MOD has no control over the length of time it takes for a decision to be made as appeal tribunals are independent.

Responsible statistician:

Deputy Head of Defence Statistics Health (Vets)

030 6798 4424 DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Further information/mailling list:

DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Enquiries Press Office:

020 7218 7907

Background Quality Report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/war-pensions-scheme-statistics-background-quality-report>

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.gov.uk

Contents

Introduction.....	Page 3
Registered Claims and Appeals.....	Page 4
Claim Clearance Times.....	Page 6
Claim Outcomes.....	Page 8
War Pension Recipients.....	Page 10
Causes of Disablement.....	Page 12
Recipients of Supplementary Allowances.....	Page 13
Financial Amounts Paid Out.....	Page 14
Methodology.....	Page 15
Glossary.....	Page 17
Further Information.....	Page 19

Other bulletins in this series and the supplementary tables in Excel format (Annex A) and in Open Document Spreadsheet format (Annex B) containing all data presented in this publication can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in November 2013 following a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-letterofconfirmationasnationalstatisticsassessmentreport19_tcm97-43516.pdf

The statistics last underwent a full assessment against the Code of Practice in 2012:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessmentreport197statisticsondefencehealth_tcm97-41724.pdf

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

Added insight by providing additional information to users of these statistics, including:

- Total amounts paid out in compensation in the form of ongoing pensions to disablement pensioners and widow(er)s, by financial year.
- Clearance times for War Pension claims and appeals

Responded to continued external interest in disablement pensioners suffering from mental health disorders, specifically post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), by incorporating this information into these annual statistics.

Updated these statistics to reflect any significant War Pension Scheme policy changes, for example the including of information on lump sum awards paid out for Service-attributable mesothelioma, following its introduction in 2015.

Introduction

This Statistical Bulletin presents summary information on the War Pension Scheme (WPS) as at 31 March 2019.

The WPS provides no-fault compensation for all ex-service personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by Service from the start of the First World War in 1914 up until 5 April 2005. The WPS is managed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with all compensation claims administered by Defence Business Services (DBS) Veterans UK.

Further information on the eligibility to claim, and the processing of WPS claims, can be found on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/war-pension-scheme/war-pension-scheme-what-you-need-to-know>.

These statistics have been provided in response to a high volume of requests for information about claims and awards under the scheme, and the number of individuals currently in receipt of a War Pension. These statistics are used by external organisations such as NHS trusts, local Government and Armed Forces charities. This report is also used internally to aid work planning and policy development.

All tables provided in previous releases of this report have been updated with 2018/19 data and are available in Annexes A and B as separate Excel and Open Document Spreadsheet (ODS) files at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>.

In addition to this statistical bulletin the MOD also publishes annual statistics summarising MOD compensation payments under the;

- a) Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). This scheme considers claims for compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>
- b) Common Law Compensation Scheme. This scheme considers claims or compensation on the basis of whether the MOD has a legal liability to pay compensation. Where there is a proven legal liability, compensation is paid: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-compensation-claims-statistics>

Other related MOD Official Statistics:

- c) Annual Location Statistics on the location of pension and compensation recipients: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>
- d) A four-part publication on the size and socio-demographic characteristics of the UK Armed Forces veteran population residing in Great Britain. The last in the series was published in 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>
- e) A one-off publication using Census 2011 data: Working Age UK Armed Forces veterans residing in England and Wales. Provides estimates on the size and socio-demographic characteristics of the working age UK Armed Forces veteran population (between 16 and 64 years of age), using responses provided in the 2011 Census: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/census-2011-working-age-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-england-and-wales>

Registered Claims and Appeals

This section provides summary information on claims and appeals registered under the WPS during 2018/19, and trends over time.

During 2018/19 there were:

8,865 Disablement claims

registered by ex-UK Armed Forces personnel for compensation for Service-attributable injury or illness. Of these,

3,975 were first disablement claims,
and

**4,890 were second /subsequent
disablement claims**

Additionally, there were:

684 War widow(er)s' claims

registered to apply for compensation for Service-attributable death.

2,404 Supplementary allowance Claims

registered by disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s for additional financial support.

1,515 Appeals registered by disablement pension and war widow(er) pension claimants, who were dissatisfied with the outcome of their claim.

Disablement claim: Registered by ex-UK Armed Forces personnel for injury/illness caused by Service prior to 6 April 2005. Includes first and second/subsequent claims.

First disablement claim: There are two types of first claim; **current invaliding claims** are raised automatically following medical discharge for a pre-April 2005 injury or illness. All other first claims are classed as a **first claim to pension**.

Second/Subsequent disablement claim: Claimants can submit further claims if existing conditions worsen or they suffer the onset of new associated conditions following their first claim.

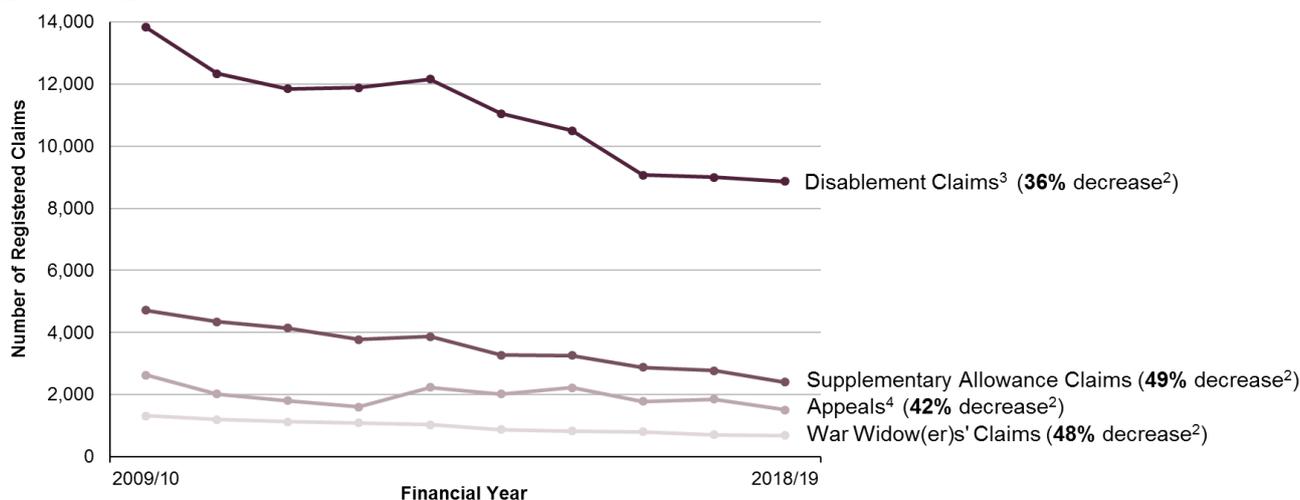
War Widow(er)s' claim: Registered by, and on behalf of, eligible spouses and partners following the death of a Service person or veteran where the cause of death was attributed to Service in the UK Armed Forces prior to 6 April 2005.

Supplementary Allowance claim: Pension recipients may claim for 'top-up' payments to provide financial support for a range of care needs, including additional costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement.

Appeals: All claimants may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Pension Appeal Tribunal if they are not satisfied with the outcome of their claim.

Figure 1: War Pension Scheme claims registered, by claim type and financial year¹, numbers and percentage changes²

2009/10 - 2018/19



Source: War Pension Computer System

1. Financial year in which the claim was registered.

2. Percentage change since 2009/10

3. Disablement claims include both first and second claims

4. Includes appeals for all claim types.

(Tables 1 and 2, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

Registered Claims and Appeals (Cont.)

Figure 1 shows the number of registered **disablement claims reduced by over one-third** (36% decrease from 13,819 claims in 2009/10) and the number of **war widow(er)s claims reduced by almost half** (48% decrease from 1,323 claims in 2009/10) over the past ten years. This is primarily the result of the introduction of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) on 6 April 2005 which took over the administration of compensation arrangements for Service-attributable injury/illness and deaths on or after this date. Subsequently, the numbers of all other claim types have also reduced over this period.

Disablement claims have continued to be registered under the WPS since the introduction of the AFCS as claimants with a pre-April 2005 injury / illness are not able to claim for compensation under the WPS until they have left the UK Armed Forces, and there is no time limit for registration of first disablement claims.

Despite the overall reduction, there was an increase in the number of registered disablement claims in 2013/14, compared with the previous year (Figure 1). This increase may be partly driven by redundancies following the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)¹, which increased the numbers of UK Armed Forces service leavers² resulting in an artificial increase in disablement claims in 2013/14.

War widow(er)s claims have continued to be registered under the WPS since the introduction of the AFCS for two primary reasons:

- The WPS will consider compensating the widow(er)s of deceased ex-Service personnel who were in receipt of specific War Pension arrangements at the time of their death (as detailed in the Background Quality Report).
- War widow(er)s claims are also still automatically generated for consideration under the WPS following a death in Service, regardless of cause, if the Service person joined the UK Armed Forces prior to 6 April 2005. Compensation will be awarded under the WPS in the event that the cause of death was attributable to injury or ill health caused, or made worse by, Service prior to this date. However, where cause of death is attributable to Service post 6 April 2005, compensation will be awarded under the AFCS and the WPS claim will be rejected.

(Tables 1 and 2, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

¹ The strategic defence and security review: securing Britain in an age of uncertainty:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-strategic-defence-and-security-review-securing-britain-in-an-age-of-uncertainty>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-monthly-manning-statistics-index>

Clearance Times

This section provides summary information on the average (median) number of working days it took to clear claims and appeals registered under the WPS, as an indication of how long a claimant can expect to wait, on average, for a decision. Figures are presented for claims cleared in 2018/19, with trends over time.

Note that clearance times for supplementary allowance claims have not been calculated as they include a wide range of care needs from claiming for a refund on prescription glasses to more complex needs such as claiming for employability support.

During 2018/19;

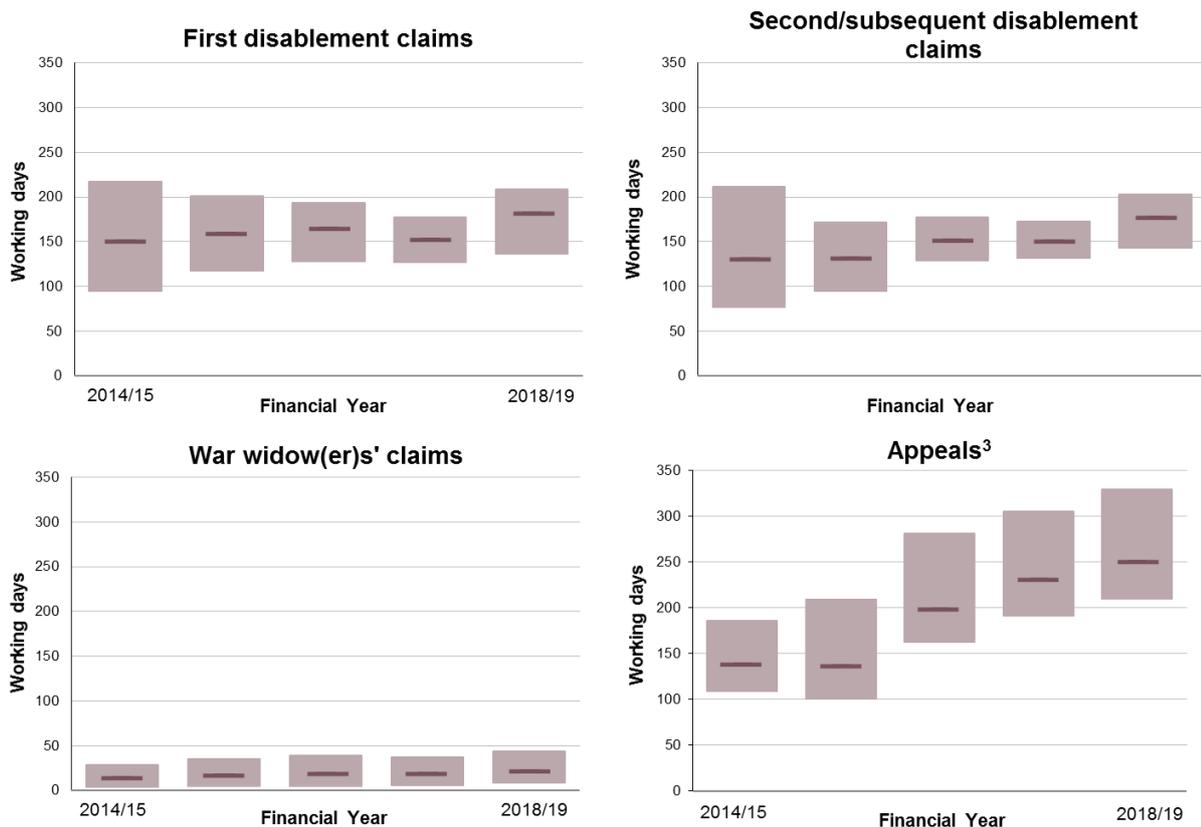
First and second / subsequent disablement pension claims were cleared, on average, within **nine months**.

War widow(er)s' claims were cleared, on average, within **one month**.

Appeals took the longest average time to clear (up to **13 months**), however it should be noted that the MOD have no control over the length of time it takes for a decision to be made as appeal tribunals are independent.

Clearance times are calculated as the number of working days between the date the claim/appeal was received by the MOD and the date a decision was made.

Figure 2: War Pension Scheme claim and appeal clearance times, by claim type and financial year¹, median average, upper quartile and lower quartile²
2014/15 to 2018/19



Source: War Pension Computer System

1. Financial year in which the claim or appeal was cleared.

2. See 'Methodology' section for further information on upper and lower quartiles.

3. Appeals clearance times were calculated from date of appeal registration to date a decision was made by the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT), Ministry of Justice.

(Tables 3,4,5 and 6, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

Clearance Times (Cont.)

During 2018/19;

First disablement pension claims, and second/subsequent disablement claims were cleared, on average, within nine calendar months (182 and 177 working days respectively). Claimants cannot submit a claim under the WPS until they have left Service and there is no time limit to claim. Therefore, claims may be registered a number of years after the injury/onset of illness suffered by the claimant and it can require considerable resource to gather and process all of the information required for a decision to be made. The varying complexity of disablement claims may partly account for the spread in clearance times shown in Figure 2.

War widow(er)s' claims were cleared, on average, within one calendar month (22 working days) (Figure 2). Widow(er)s' claims take less time to clear under the WPS since the claim process is more straightforward than for disablement claims. Therefore, the spread of clearance times is also much smaller than for other claim types and appeals. War Widow(er)s' claim clearance times have fluctuated over the past five financial years but have, on average, taken no longer than five weeks to clear.

Appeals were cleared, on average, within 13 calendar months (251 working days), the longest average time it has taken to clear appeals over the past five financial years (Figure 2). Please note, the MOD completed the first stage of appeal processing within six calendar months (114 working days) after which appeals were heard at an independent Pension Appeal Tribunal (PAT). The MOD has no control over the length of time it takes for evidence to be gathered and a decision to be made at the PAT. For further information on the PAT process please see the Background Quality Report.

Note that during 2018/19 DBS Veterans UK experienced a lack of resourcing which partly led to increase in clearance times for claims and appeals during 2018/19, compared with the previous year.

Claim Outcomes

This section provides summary information on the outcomes of claims and appeals cleared under the WPS during 2018/19, and trends over time.

During 2018/19:

There were a total of **2,924** first disablement claims and **654** war widow(er)s' claims cleared.

Three quarters (75%) of all first disablement claims were awarded compensation (2,180) in the form of a gratuity payment or ongoing war pension

Almost half (47%) of Second/subsequent disablement claims resulted in an increased entitlement or new award (1,676).

Almost half (46%) of war widow(er)s' claims were successful (303).

Almost two-thirds (62%) of supplementary allowance claims were successful (1,355).

One-third (33%) of disablement pension appeals and **1 in 10 (10%)** widow(er)s' appeals were successful (108 cases in total).

Decisions are made following the advice of medical advisors on whether a claim is Service-attributable.

First disablement claims, and **second/subsequent claims** determined to be Service-attributable are awarded a disablement percentage between 0% and 100%:

- a) Those awarded at 20% - 100% are paid an ongoing war pension
- b) Those awarded at 1% - 19% are paid a one-off gratuity (lump sum) payment.
- c) Service-attributable cases determined not to be severe enough to impact on daily life are awarded a nil (0%) award.

War widow(er)s' claims are either awarded or rejected with successful widow(er)s' paid an ongoing war pension.

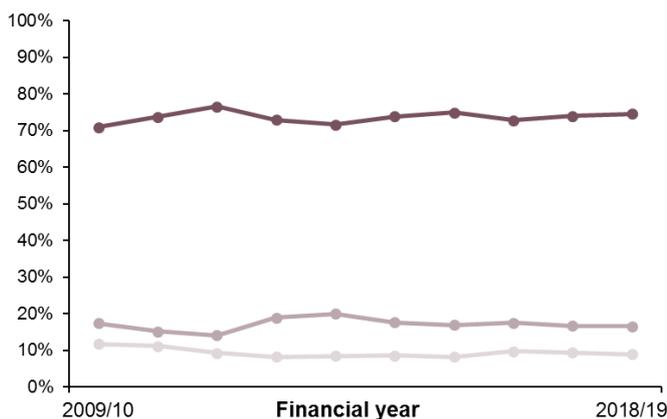
Full details of rates payable under the scheme be found on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/war-disablement-pension-2018-rates>

Figure 3: War Pension Scheme cleared claims by claim type, outcome and financial year¹, percentages of cleared claims

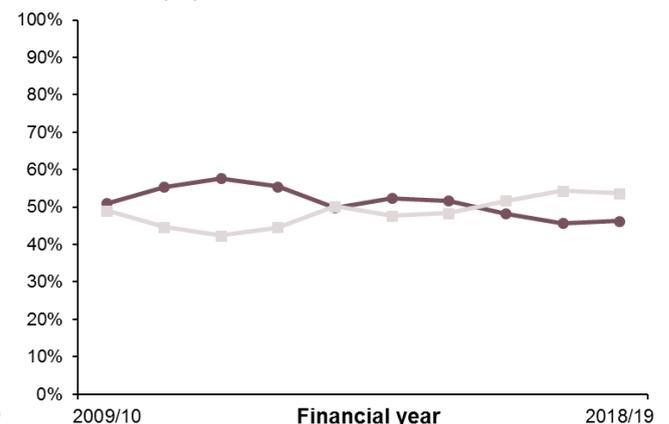
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2019

Key: Successful² Awarded Nil³ Unsuccessful

First Disablement Claims⁴



War Widow(er) Claims⁵



Source: War Pension Computer System

1. Financial year in which the claim was cleared.
2. Includes those awarded a gratuity payment (at 1-19%) and a war pension (at 20-100%).
3. Nil awards are not applicable for war widow(er)s
4. Figures include first disablement claims only due to the complexity of second/subsequent claim outcomes.
5. Figures include restored Widow(er)s.

(Tables 9,10,11,12 and 13, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

Claim Outcomes (Cont.)

Annual numbers of cleared disablement pension and war widow(er)s' claims and appeals have continued to reduce, reflecting the reduction in annual numbers of registered claims (Tables 9 and 12, Annexes A and B) . However, the proportion of claims which were successful, awarded nil, and unsuccessful have remained stable (Figure 3).

Success rates vary across the different types of claims and appeals as they all have different eligibility criteria.

Approximately 50% of War widow(er)s claims have been rejected (Figure 3). War Widow(er)s' claims continue to be automatically generated following a death in Service, regardless of the cause of death, where Service person joined the UK Armed Forces prior to 6 April 2005, as discussed in the introduction. However, most of these cases go on to be awarded under the AFCS and are rejected under the WPS.

Second disablement claims included claims for further conditions or deterioration of an existing condition. They also included reviews made by the MOD to assess whether the level of disablement has changed since the initial assessment was made. When individuals submit second/subsequent claims, a comparison is made between the condition of the claimant and the condition of a normal healthy person of the same age and gender. It is a current assessment and the decision is based on current medical evidence therefore the pension awarded may be reduced in value. Note that a small proportion (1%, n=29) of second/subsequent claims cleared during 2018/19 resulted in a reduced outcome.

Supplementary allowances each have their own eligibility criteria and decision-making process and therefore success rates vary considerably, for example 45% of claims for funeral expenses were successful, compared with 71% of claims for allowance for lower standard of occupation (ALSO) (Table 12, Annexes A and B).

Appeal success rates were generally lower than other claims (31%, n=108 of all entitlement appeals being allowed) since in most cases the original claim outcome resulted from a fair assessment.

War Pension Recipients

This section provides summary statistics on the numbers of disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s in receipt of an ongoing war pension as at 31 March each year, between 2009 and 2018. Demographic information is also presented for those in receipt of a pension as at 31 March 2019.

As at 31 March 2019 there were **97,566 disablement pensioners** in receipt of an ongoing war pension of which:

- 95% were male, and just over half (53%) were of retirement age (aged 65+).

As at 31 March 2019 there were **14,626 war widow(er)s** in receipt of an ongoing war pension, of which:

- Nearly all (>99%) were female, and 89% were of retirement age (aged 65+).

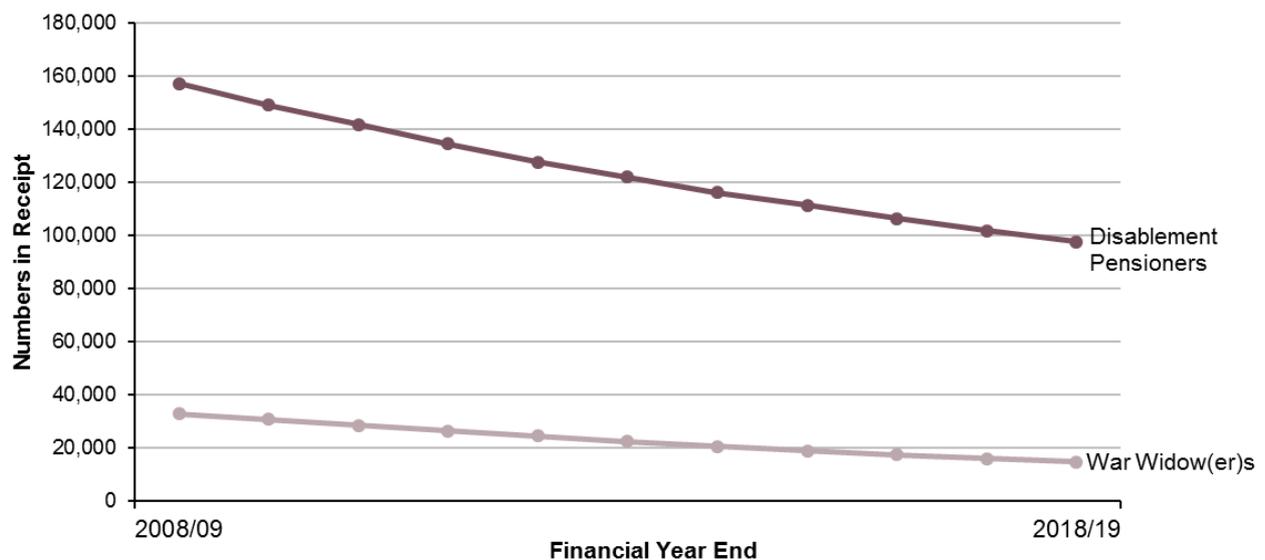
There was a 5% decrease in the total number of recipients from the previous year, which has been decreasing at a consistent rate each year since 2009/10.

Disablement pensioners: Ex-UK Armed Forces personnel in receipt of an ongoing war pension for a Service-attributable injury/illness at a disablement percentage of 20% or above.

War widow(er)s: Those in receipt of an ongoing war pension following the death of their partner or spouse caused, or substantially hastened, by Service.

Figure 4: Disablement Pensioners and War Widow(er)s in receipt of an ongoing pension, as at financial year end, numbers

As at 31 March 2009 to as at 31 March 2019



Source: War Pension Computer System

Annual numbers of disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s in receipt of an ongoing pension under the WPS has consistently decreased by approximately 5% each year since 31 March 2009 (Figure 4). A result of numbers of pension recipients leaving the scheme each year remaining higher than the number of successful claimants entering the scheme.

The main reason for the cessation of a pension was death (due to the age profile of disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s as discussed on page 11). Pensions may also cease for other reasons such as: failure to draw the pension for one year; refusal to undergo a medical examination or provide medical evidence or; imprisonment.

(Tables 14 and 17, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

War Pension Recipients (Cont.)

As at 31 March 2019:

Disablement Pensioners



More than **9 in 10 (95%)** were **male**



Just over **half (53%)** were of **retirement age (65+)**



Just over **one-quarter (27%)** were located in the **South East** and **South West** of England

The demographic profile of disablement pensioners reflects that of recent veteran estimates¹, reporting that 89% of veterans were male, 60% of veterans were of retirement age, and 29% were located in the South East and South West of England.

Almost **two-thirds (65%)** were in receipt of a war pension at a disablement percentage between 20% and 30%.

Disablement Percentage

20	least severe
30	
40	Using evidence supplied from the claimant and advice from medical advisors, Veterans UK will award claimants with severe enough disabilities a 'disablement percentage' ranging from 20% (least severe) to 100% (most severe).
50	
60	
70	
80	
90	
100	most severe

War Widow(er)s



More than **9 in 10 (>99%)** were **female**



Almost **9 in 10 (89%)** were of **retirement age (65+)**

The age profile of War widow(er)s is driven by two factors:

- The high volume of older widow(er)s as a result of deaths during the Second World War, and subsequent National Service² which ended in 1960.
- The introduction of the AFCS which has compensated for deaths attributable to time spent in Service after 6 April 2005 resulting in fewer younger widow(er)s joining the WPS.



Almost **one-third (32%)** were located in the **South East** and **South West** of England

(Tables 14,15,16,17,18,19 and 20, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

1. As published in the MOD Annual Population Survey Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>
2. <http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/private-lives/yourcountry/overview/nationalservice/>

Causes of Disablement

Due to continued external interest, this section provides information on awards made under the WPS for service-attributable mental health conditions and mesothelioma.

Information on injuries/illnesses is recorded on the War Pension Computer System (WPCS) in the form of a medical diagnosis code and a free-text medical diagnosis description. The code and description are based on the medical evidence and diagnosis obtained from the GP once a claim has been registered with DBS Veterans UK. Due to the free text nature of this information, it is not possible to provide a full summary of all injuries/illnesses that have been awarded compensation under the War Pension Scheme. However, records can be interrogated for a specific condition.

Awards for mental health conditions

As at 31 March 2019:



14,556 (15%)
of DPs were in receipt of a War Pension for **mental disorders**

Of which,

8,063
were specifically for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (**PTSD**)

Awards made for mental health disorders are estimates, based primarily on a free-text search and should be interpreted with caution.

Awards for mesothelioma

Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2019:



282 ex-Service personnel diagnosed with mesothelioma had elected to receive the lump sum payment instead of receiving a regular disablement pension.

Since 16 December 2015 veterans who had been diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma as a result of asbestos exposure through their Service in the Armed Forces, have been entitled to receive a lump sum payment of up to £140,000 instead of receiving an ongoing disablement pension. These payments started being paid from 1 April 2016. Further details on the introduction of these lump sum payments can be found in the Background Quality Report.

Recipients of Supplementary Allowances

This section provides summary statistics on disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s in receipt of supplementary allowances¹ as at 31 March 2019. Eligible disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s are able to claim for additional financial support for a range of care needs, including additional costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement.

As at 31 March 2019:

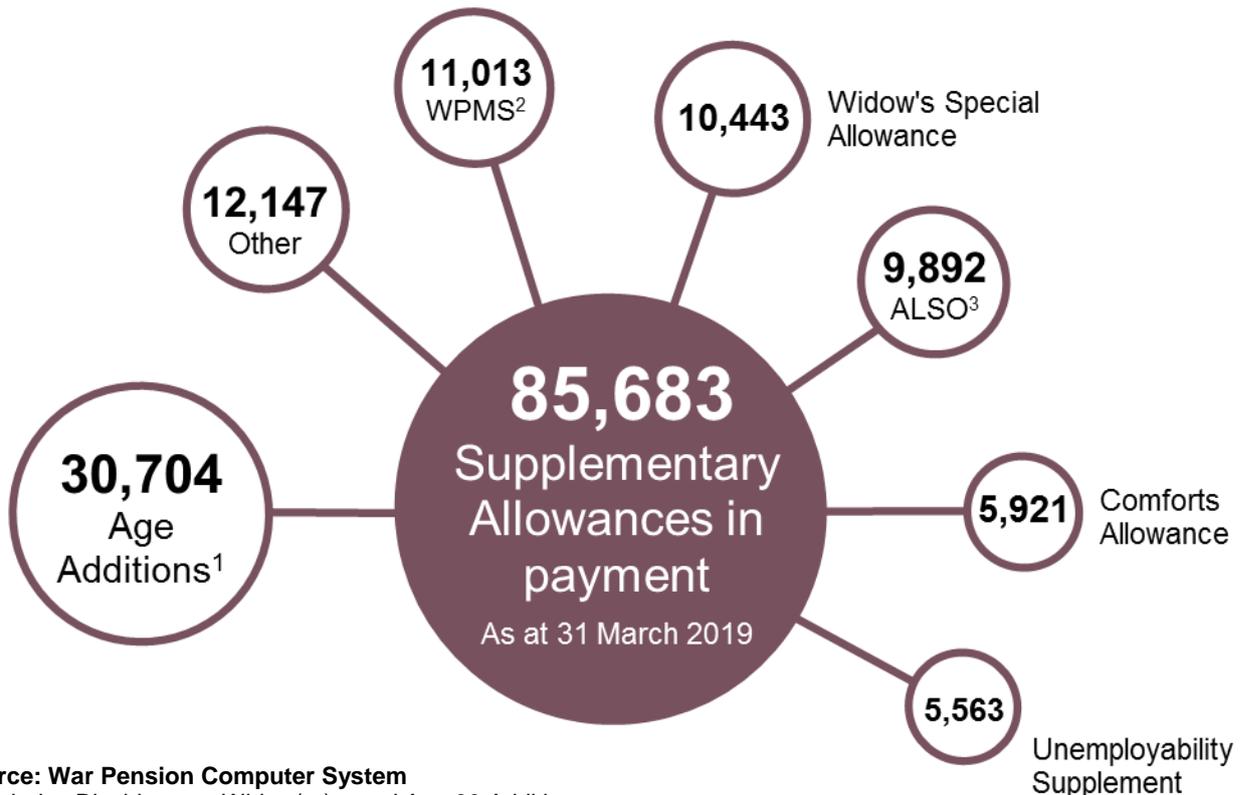
Age addition allowances made up over one-third (36%) of all supplementary allowances in payment, with almost **9 in 10** (87%) of war widow(er)s and **2 in 10** (18%) of disablement pensioners in receipt of this allowance.

Pensioners are able to claim for multiple supplementary allowances and therefore may be in receipt of more than one allowance.

Age Addition Allowance: This is paid out from age 65 to disablement pensioners whose disablement is assessed at 40% or more. An Age 80 addition allowance is paid to all disablement pensioners aged 80 or over. The age allowances are made to help a pensioner cope with the increased costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement, rather than any acceptance that the disablement worsens with age.

Figure 5: Supplementary Allowances in payment to Disablement Pensioners and War Widow(er)s as at financial year end, numbers

As at 31 March 2019



Source: War Pension Computer System

- 1. Includes Disablement, Widow(er)s, and Age 80 Additions
- 2. War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement
- 3. Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

(Tables 22 and 23, Annexes A and B)

Source: War Pension Computer System

¹Part II Awards in respect of disablement: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/606/contents>

Financial amounts paid out under the WPS

This section provides information on the financial amounts paid out under the War Pension Scheme during the past five financial years between 2014/15 and 2018/19.



In 2018/19 a total of **£697.3 million** was paid out in the form of pensions and supplementary allowances.

Of which, **£506.8 million** was paid out to disablement pensioners and **£190.5 million** was paid out to war widow(er)s.

As at 31 March 2019 there had been **£39.5 million** paid to ex-Service personnel in the form of the mesothelioma lump sum payment since its introduction on 16 December 2015. £10.5 million of this was paid during 2018/19.



The average weekly amount received by disablement pensioners in 2018/19 was **£91.98** per week. This was compared to **£246.17** per week for war widow(er)s.

The average weekly amount received for disablement pensioners was lower compared to war widow(er)s. The majority of pensions in payment to disablement pensioners were at the lower disablement percentages, which equate to lower financial amounts compared to the standard war widow(er)s' pension rate which compensates for Service-attributable death.



The amount paid out under the WPS **decreased by 17%** over the last five financial years from £837.6 million in 2014/15 to £697.3 million in 2018/19. This reflects the decreasing numbers in receipt of a war pension and supplementary allowances.

In 2018/19 there was a **4%** decrease in the amounts paid out under the WPS from the previous financial 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

Figures presented in this bulletin were compiled from data stored on the War Pension Computer System (WPCS). Defence Statistics receive quarterly data extracts from the WPCS which were used to compile the figures provided. DBS Veterans UK were responsible for ensuring the quality of WPCS data supplied to Defence Statistics.

Defence Statistics receive annual data from DBS Veterans which are used to report on financial information paid out under the WPS.

Defence Statistics receive annual figures from DBS Veterans UK for individuals who have opted to receive the mesothelioma lump sum payment, including the total amount paid out to these individuals under the scheme.

Data Coverage

The data presented include all regular and reserve ex-Service personnel, war widow(er)s and other dependants (including adult dependants, children, unmarried dependants, war orphans, and war parents) who have claimed for compensation under the War Pension Scheme between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2019.

Note that recipients of the mesothelioma lump sum payment are additional to all other claimants of a disablement pensions. These individuals are not recorded on the WPCS and are therefore not included within disablement pension figures presented.

A claimant was eligible for consideration under the WPS where disablement or death has occurred as a result of Service in HM Forces, prior to 6 April 2005. In addition, awards may also be made where disablement or death has occurred as a result of:

- War-time Service in the Naval Auxiliary Service, or the Mercantile Marine
- Service in the Polish Forces under British command during World War Two
- A civilian or a member of a civil defence organisation was the direct result of an injury sustained as a result of enemy action in World War Two.

Claims for injuries/illnesses as a result of Service cannot be made until an individual has left the Services.

Illnesses and injuries awarded under the WPS are recorded in both a free-text field and as a medical diagnosis code. To produce the figures for War Pensions in payment for mental health conditions, records with a medical diagnosis code 4000 to 4008, indicating a mental disorder, were identified. The free-text field was also searched for terms such as 'PTSD', 'psych', 'phobia', 'depression', 'adjustment', 'anxiety', 'panic', 'dysthymic', 'schizophrenia', 'mood disorder', 'substance abuse' and 'mania', as well as any probable misspellings or alternate spellings. As conditions are sometimes spelt incorrectly it was possible that some records with reference to mental health have not been identified. Therefore the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

Methodology (Cont.)

Calculation of claim clearance times

Information on WPS 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.

Glossary

Adult Dependant: Adult relatives, i.e. sister, brother, aunt or uncle etc., for whom the service person was financially responsible.

Age 80 addition (NI) (Disablement & Widow(er)): This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner and a war widow(er) aged 80 or over.

Age addition allowance: This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner who is aged 65 or over and whose disablement is assessed at 40% or more. A war widow(er) may receive an additional allowance at age 65 which is increased at age 70, and again at age 80.

Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation (ALSO): This may be paid if a disablement pensioner's earning capacity is reduced because their pensioned disablement permanently prevents them following their regular occupation. To gain entitlement new claimants must be under age 65, with a disablement percentage of at least 40%. This allowance plus their basic War Disablement Pension cannot exceed the 100% disablement pension rate.

Appeal: If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of any of their claims they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.

Armed 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.

Awarded 0%: The doctor may decide from the medical evidence that although the condition was caused by Service or wartime experience, if it is not causing the person a problem at the moment then they will be awarded an assessment of nil.

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 or appeal

Comforts Allowance (COMF): This may be paid to a severely disabled pensioner who is receiving Constant Attendance Allowance or Unemployability Supplement or both. It is intended to help with the extra expenses associated with severe disablement.

DBS Veterans UK: Responsible for administering the Armed Forces pension and compensation schemes for those injured or bereaved through service.

Departmental review: A review can be carried out to reassess a case when a condition has been rejected and an award for a war pension has not been made.

Deterioration claims: An application can be made to increase a war pension if an accepted condition has worsened, or, if another condition has made the accepted war pension disablement worse.

Disablement pensioner: Ex-UK Armed Forces Service personnel with an injury/illness as a result of Service with a disablement percentage of 20% or above.

Disablement Percentage: First and second/subsequent claims are assessed by a doctor, and then he/she gives a percentage of up to 100% to dependent on how disabled the person is.

Gratuity Payment: If a disablement is assessed at less than 20%, personnel are paid a lump sum called a gratuity. The amount depends on the extent of the disablement and how long the person is likely to be disabled.

Glossary (Cont.)

Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT): The PAT hears appeals from all claimants who have disagreed with the decision made by the MOD on the outcome of their claim.

Registered Claim: A claim is classed as registered when Veterans UK begin a workflow on the War Pension Computer System (WPCS) for a claim.

Supplementary Allowance: Everyone in receipt of a War Pension can claim for extra allowances to help with the extra costs of a long-term health condition or disability.

Unmarried Dependant: Partner who lived with the ex-service person for at least 6 months before his enlistment, was maintained by him and who has borne his child.

War Orphan: Child of deceased service person who has no surviving mother or father. Child whose mother was divorced from a service person at the time of death. Child who is not in the care of the surviving parent.

War Parent: Parent of the deceased service person.

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 WW1 in 1914 to 5 April 2005. Ex-Service personnel are only eligible to claim once they've left the services.

War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS): This is intended to help with the mobility costs of a pensioner who is unable to walk, or virtually unable to walk. New claimants must have a service disablement of at least 40%. It is paid to double amputees and to those pensioners who need help getting about because they are both deaf and blind as a result of their pensioned disablement.

War widow(er): Spouse of ex-Service person whose death was whilst in Service or related to a disablement due to Service prior to 6 April 2005.

War widow(er)'s Special Allowance: This is a Supplementary Pension payable to "pre-1973 war widow(er)s" (the widow(er)s of Service personnel who died or left the services before 31st March 1973, and who did not benefit from the improvements made from that date to the MOD's Armed Forces Pension Scheme).

Working day: Any day in which legal business can be conducted. In this report a working day is any day apart from a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday

For further definitions please see Background Quality Report.

Further Information

Symbols

~	Suppressed (greater than zero or fewer than 3, or secondary suppression – see disclosure control note for details)
r	Revised
p	Provisional
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 the directives of the JSP 200, disclosure control is conducted on all statistical information provided by the MOD to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. Within these statistics a risk of disclosure has been considered to be high where numbers presented are fewer than three. In cases where a risk of disclosure exists, one of two appropriate disclosure control methods have been applied:

Figures have been suppressed: In most cases where there may be a risk of disclosure, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, secondary suppression has been applied so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals or subtotals. In most cases the secondary suppression has been applied to the next smallest figures.

Figures have been grouped: Where there is a risk of disclosure, relevant categories across columns or rows have been grouped in order to present larger numbers. This method of suppression has been applied to Tables 14, 18, 19 and 20 of Annexes A and B.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five: In cases where the suppression of information would result in larger numbers being 'hidden' as a result of secondary suppression and it has not been possible to group columns and/or rows, figures have been rounded to the nearest five. This method of suppression has been applied to Table 7 in Annexes A and B.

Revisions

The figures reported for each quarter are based on the WPCS data extract as at the end of each quarter, and will be correct as at the time each extract was taken. Previous years/quarters are not recalculated and therefore any update to claim information made on the WPCS after each quarterly snapshot will not be reflected in the report.

Historical data will only be revised if errors are found in the data processing or statistical methods used during their publication. If an error was found all historical data would be revised, based on the quarterly snapshots of data, and Defence Statistics will highlight the error and the impact on the numbers presented.

Since the release of the previous Statistical Bulletin an error has been identified in the process carried out to produce clearance times. This error has now been corrected and any affected figures have been revised and marked with an 'r'. The number of affected figures was minimal and does not affect any trends. Therefore, this error is considered to have had minimal impact.

Scheme information

Further information on the WPS and other MOD compensation schemes can be found on the Gov.UK website:

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

Common law compensation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-law-claims-policy-division>

Further Information (Cont.)

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:

Defence Statistics (Health) Tel: 030 6798 4424

Email: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.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>

Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

Defence Expenditure Analysis PQFOI@mod.gov.uk	030 6793 4531	DefStrat-Econ-ESES-PI@mod.gov.uk
Price Indices Hd@mod.gov.uk	030 6793 2100	DefStrat-Econ-ESES-PI@mod.gov.uk
Naval Service Manpower	023 9254 7426	DefStrat-Stat-Navy@mod.gov.uk
Army Manpower Enquiries@mod.gov.uk	01264 886175	DefStrat-Stat-Army@mod.gov.uk
RAF Manpower	01494 496822	DefStrat-Stat-Air@mod.gov.uk
Tri-Service Manpower	020 7807 8896	DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk
Civilian Manpower	020 7218 1359	DefStrat-Stat-CivEnquiries@mod.gov.uk
Health Information FOI@mod.gov.uk	030 6798 4423	DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

If you wish to correspond by mail, our postal address is:

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence, Abbey Wood (North)
#6028, Oak, 0, West
Bristol
BS34 8JH

For general MOD enquiries, please call: 020 7218 9000

For Press Office, please call: 020 721 87907