



Ministry
of Defence

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XX February 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2015 requesting the following information:

*"I would like some more information on the rejected claims mentioned in this statistical bulletin:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382568/20141030-AFCS_Publication_Sep_14-U.pdf*

*Q1: Of the 4715 rejected claims, please could you tell me what type of injury the claimants were claiming for? (So how many burns, mental disorders, amputations etc)
Do you have this data for 'all years', so I can make a direct comparison with the data in table 3.3a?*

Q2: Within the mental disorder category, do you record how many rejected claimants claimed they had PTSD? Please can I have the figures for rejected PTSD claims for the financial year 2013/14 and 2012/13. Please can you also tell me how many claims for PTSD were approved in 2013/14 and 2012/13."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you have requested can be found below.

Table 1 provides a summary of the injuries and illnesses rejected for claims cleared during the financial year 2013/14. Overall figures since the scheme began (6 April 2005-30 September 2014) are also provided for comparison. Please note that as multiple conditions can be claimed for under the same claim, **Table 1** presents the number of conditions rather than the number of claims.

The **4,715** rejected claims in 2013/14 involved **5,325** conditions. Of these, **2,070** were accepted as being due to Service but did not meet the minimum tariff level ('Below minimum tariff' in Table 1). The remaining 3,255 were rejected as they were not found to be due to Service.

Table 1: Injuries/illnesses rejected under the AFCS by tariff of injury table¹ and outcome, overall and for financial year 2013/14, numbers^{3,4,5}

Tariff of injury table	Outcome	All Years	2013/14
Total	All	21,995	5,325
	Rejected	15,665	3,255
	Below minimum tariff⁶	6,330	2,070
Burns	All	55	20
	Rejected	25	5
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	30	15
Injury, Wounds and Scarring	All	8,940	2,665
	Rejected	5,310	1,265
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	3,625	1,400
Mental Disorders	All	1,545	345
	Rejected	1,485	330
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	60	15
Physical disorders including infectious diseases	All	2,485	505
	Rejected	2,300	450
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	185	55
Amputations	All	35	~
	Rejected	35	~
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	~	0
Neurological disorders (including spinal cord, head or brain injuries)	All	370	80
	Rejected	300	60
	Below minimum tariff ¹	65	20
Senses⁶	All	2,050	275
	Rejected	1,335	185
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	715	90
Fractures and Dislocations	All	2,695	720
	Rejected	1,930	495
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	760	225
Musculoskeletal Disorders	All	2,945	560
	Rejected	2,080	315
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	865	245
Temporary Award⁸	All	0	0
	Rejected	-	-
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	-	-
Other Condition⁹	All	360	70
	Rejected	335	65
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	25	5
Condition unknown¹⁰	All	520	80
	Rejected	520	80
	Below minimum tariff ⁶	0	0

1: Injuries/illnesses are assessed against a tariff of injury table with a set of tariff levels where the lower numerical values (i.e. 1-4) reflect the more severe conditions.

2: Figures include injury claims and further additional claims.

3: The table shows all of the injuries/illnesses that have been rejected for a single claim.

4: Not all tariff levels (1-15) attract a lump sum payment under each tariff of injury table.

5: The sum of the sub-totals may not sum to the totals due to rounding.

6: Injury/illness is accepted as due to Service but does not meet the minimum tariff level (15).

7: This tariff of injury table refers to injuries and conditions relating to eyes and ears.

8: A temporary award is made where an injury is predominantly caused by Service for which no provision is made in the tariff. Any temporary award will be amended within one year of the decision to award, to include the injury for which the temporary award was made. At this point the temporary award becomes permanent and the award is amended on the CAPS.

9: The condition code descriptions given for some claims were not detailed enough to be assigned to a tariff of injury table grouping - these records have been assigned to the category of 'other condition'.

10: There are some claim records where condition information is not available and these records have been assigned to unknown.

A total of **100** personnel made claims for PTSD during 2012/13. Of these **65** were awarded compensation and **35** had their claim rejected.

A total of **160** personnel made claims for PTSD during 2013/14. Of these **80** were awarded compensation and **80** had their claim rejected.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and assistance) you may find it useful to note the following:

The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death attributable to Service that occurred on or after that date. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Pensions Scheme.

Awarded injuries/illnesses under the AFCS are assigned to a tariff of injury table condition grouping, as presented in Table 3.3a of the AFCS official statistic publication. This information is not recorded for unsuccessful cases. Further details on the tariff of injury tables are available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/517/schedule/3/made>

All claimed conditions are recorded on the AFCS in a condition code and a free-text 'claimed condition' field. For this response, the condition code has been used to group rejected injuries/illnesses into a tariff of injury table grouping.

To identify claims for PTSD, the free-text 'claimed condition' field was searched for the terms 'PTSD', 'Post Traumatic Stress' and 'Post-Traumatic Stress'. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that some records with reference to PTSD have not been identified, and therefore the figures supplied should be used as an estimate only.

In line with Defence Statistics' Rounding Policy for AFCS data, all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest 5 and figures fewer than five have been suppressed and marked ~. Due to rounding, the figures provided may not sum to totals.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering AFCS statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)