



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)  
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Reference: [REDACTED]

Date: 09 October 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of the 14 September 2013 requesting the following information:

*The information that I am requesting is to ascertain (if any) the number of Service personnel (both current and retired) who have/had Multiple Myeloma.  
I wish to request information regarding cancer rates in individuals who have served in the Armed Forces as detailed below please:*

*Covering the period 1979 – 2012 (showing yearly results) could you please advise:*

- 1. The total strength of the combined Armed Forces in each year. And of those how many serving personnel, in each separate year where:
  - a. Diagnosed with cancer – please break down into Service and primary trade of those diagnosed and average age.*
  - b. Of those diagnosed with cancer – how many cases of Multiple Myeloma were diagnosed. Please break down into Service and primary trade of those diagnosed and average age.*
  - c. Please provide number of Service deaths where cancer (or complications from) was cited on death certificate. Please provide average age of death and type of cancer.*
  - d. Please provide details of any deaths that cited Multiple Myeloma (or complications from) as cause.**
- 2. The total number of former Service Personnel in receipt of an Armed Forces Pension (not ill health or war pension) in each year – broken down into each Service, primary trade and those aged below 55 years and those aged over age 55. Of those who were under the age of 55 how many:
  - a. Made a claim for ill-health enhancement to their pension. How many were due to cancer.*
  - b. Of all applications for ill-health enhancement how many were successful and how many of those were due to cancer.**
- 3. The total number of Service personnel, broken down into Service, primary trade and age who were medically prematurely discharged onto an ill-health pension. Of those
  - a. How many were due to cancer.*
  - b. Of those with cancer how many had Multiple Myeloma.**
- 4. During the period 1979 – 2012 how many claims for a war pension/compensation scheme were made for each of the Services. Please provide the yearly results showing:
  - a. Total claims for each Service broken down into "Other" or "Cancer".*
  - b. Result (i.e. successful or not) of initial claims for each Service broken down as "Other" or "Cancer".*
  - c. Number of applications who appealed a negative decision and went to Tribunal for each Service broken down as "Other" or "Cancer".**

- d. Outcome of the Tribunal broken down for each Service as "Other" or "Cancer".
- e. Number of cases that progressed to Upper Tribunal broken down for each Service as "Other" or "Cancer".
- f. Outcome of the Upper Tribunal broken down for each Service as "Other" or "Cancer"

"Cancer" – Please detail numbers of any that relate to Multiple Myeloma.

5. Number of deaths of any Service Pensioners in receipt of ANY kind of Armed Forces Pension (i.e. War, Ill-Health, Retirement Pension etc.) broken down yearly into:
- a. Service Pension Type.
- b. Service Served in.
- c. Age at Death ( <30 years, <40 years, <50, <55, <60, <65, <70 and >70).
- d. Reason for Death ("Other" or "Cancer" (including complications of or as a result of).

Of those with cancer please detail any Multiple Myeloma incidents.

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that Information relating to part 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 5 of your request is not held, information relating to part 1, 1c and 1d is not held for the full time period of your request.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that although we may hold some of the raw data from which your request could be answered in the format requested, Section 11(3) of the FOI Act allows for the department to refuse a request where it determines that it is not reasonably practicable to comply with the request.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require the collation and merging of several sources of data from administration systems, centralised primary care records and other reporting databases. For example, the Armed Forces Pension Scheme data would need to be linked to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme data and War Pensions data. This pension and compensation scheme data would then need to be linked the deaths registrations data, and electronic patient records data. Business rules would have to be designed to interrogate the data systems.

Defence Statistics hold some information and if this is of interest to you we could consider providing the following:

For the Armed Forces Strengths, part 1 of the request:

- Annual Strengths of the UK Regular Armed, including Ghurkhas and Full Time Reserve Service from 1992 to 2012

For deaths, part 1 of the request [data source: death certificates]:

- The number of UK Regular Service personnel who died whilst in-Service and were given a primary cause of death as Cancer (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer), 1984 to 2012.
- The number of UK Regular Service personnel who died whilst in-Service and had a contributory cause of death as Cancer (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer), 1984 to 2012.
- The number of UK Service personnel who deployed to the Gulf 1 conflict (1991) and have died since leaving Service with either a primary or contributory cause of death as Cancer (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer), 1991 to 2012.
- The number of UK Service personnel who did not deploy to the Gulf 1 conflict (1991) and are members of the 'era' cohort and have died since leaving Service with either a primary or contributory cause of death as Cancer (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer), 1991 to 2012.

For Cancer Morbidity, part 1 of the request:

- The number of UK Service personnel who deployed to the Gulf 1 conflict (1991), including serving and veteran personnel, with a cancer registration (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer), 1991 to 2012. [data source NHS cancer registrations]
- The number of UK Regular Service personnel with a code for Cancer (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer ) recorded on their electronic primary care records<sup>1</sup>, 2010 to 2013 [data source: electronic primary care record].

For medical discharges, part 3 of the request:

- The number of UK Service personnel medically discharged with principal or contributory cause of cancer (including Multiple Myeloma Cancer), 1995 to 2013.
- Further breakdowns by Service and age can also be provided.

For Pensions & Compensation, part 2, 4 and 5 of the request:

- The number of ex-Service personnel in receipt of an Armed Forces Pension, as at 2013.
- The number of ex-Service personnel in receipt of a War pension, as at 31 March 2013, including cancer.
- The number of Service and ex-Service personnel in receipt of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, including cancer.
- Further breakdowns by Service and age can also be provided

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 Head of Corporate Information, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering climatic injuries or other areas relating to the health of the Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)

## Background Notes

**Defence Medical Information Capability Programme** DMICP data is compiled from the DMICP data warehouse. DMICP comprises an integrated primary Health Record used by clinicians to enter and review patient information and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Free text entered by clinicians in the patient record does not transfer to the data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally as a paper record at each individual medical centre (the FMed 4).

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<sup>1</sup> Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP)

**Gulf 1 Cohort Study** Defence Statistics publish summary statistics on the causes of deaths that occurred among the UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf Conflict.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/veterans/gulf-1-deaths/2012-12-31>

**Armed Forces Pension Scheme** There are a number of different occupational pension schemes available to Armed Forces personnel. The Armed Forces Pension Scheme data presented cover Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) and Armed Forces Pensions Scheme 2005 (AFPS 05). AFPS 75 pension benefits are based on rank and length of Service. All personnel serving between 6 April 1975 and 6 April 2005 will have served under the AFPS 75 scheme. AFPS 05 pension benefits are based on length of Service and final salary, and personnel who joined after 6 April 2005 will be serving under the AFPS 05 scheme. Further details of these schemes can be found on the MOD website ([www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)).

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/veterans/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>

**Medical Discharges** Defence Statistics (release an annual Official Statistic on medical discharges in the UK Armed Forces. Medical discharges are the result of a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc) coming to the conclusion that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that pre-empts their continued service in the Armed Forces.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/medical/medical-discharges>

**Armed Forces Compensation Scheme** The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (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 Pensions Scheme.

You may be interested to review the following two tables of particular interest:

- **Table 5.1** which provides the number of reconsiderations cleared between Q4-2011/12 and Q4-2012/13 by claim type and outcome.
- **Table 5.2** which provides the number of appeals cleared between Q4-2011/12 and Q4-2012/13 by claim type and outcome.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/veterans/armed-forces-compensation-scheme>

**War Pension Scheme** The War Pensions Scheme (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.

You may be interested to review the following tables of particular interest:

- **Table 2.4** First claims to supplementary allowances cleared during quarter, by allowance type and outcome, Q4-2011/12 to Q4-2012/13, numbers
- **Table 2.4a** First claims to supplementary allowances automatically awarded during quarter, by allowance type, Q4-2011/12 to Q4-2012/13, numbers
- **Table 2.5** Appeals cleared to Pensions Appeal Tribunal for consideration during quarter, by appeal type, Q4-2011/12 to Q4-2012/13, numbers
- **Table 2.6** Pensions Appeal Tribunal decisions during quarter by appeal type, Q4-2011/12 to Q4-2012/13, numbers and percentages

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/veterans/war-pensions>