



Ministry
of Defence

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

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)30679 84423
Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)1179 319634
E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

Reference: 22-01-2014-102240-005

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: 13 February 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2014 requesting the following information:

I wondered if you would be able to send me any information you have regarding National and regional statistics on Veterans who have been diagnosed with PTSD within the Armed Forces.

- If at all possible I would be looking for information concerning those that have received treatment for PTSD between 1990-2013*
- The split between men and women receiving treatment in this period*
- The split between full time and reservists receiving treatment in this period*
- The varying age groups*
- Other mental health disorders that veterans need treatment for*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. To identify UK Service personnel since 1990 who were assessed at a MOD DCMH with a mental disorder whilst still serving in the Armed Forces and who have since left the Armed Forces, will involve individual level searches of various electronic and paper sources which would take more than a year to compile.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Defence Statistics have carried out an estimate of the cost of complying with this request and it would take over a year to compile. A copy of this cost estimate is available if required.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce to the time range or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that Defence Statistics hold the following raw data, from which, we could consider providing the information if requested. Links to information already available in the public domain are provided under each section:

Mental Health Records:

- The number of UK Service personnel who, from 1 April 2007, have had an initial assessment for a mental disorder at a MOD Department for Community Mental Health or an admission at a MOD in-patient provider and who are now no longer serving in the Armed Forces.
- This information can be broken down by gender and age group.

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

The total number of Veterans in the UK population is not held by the Ministry of Defence. Therefore the total number of Veterans with PTSD is also not held by the Ministry of Defence. However, the Ministry of Defence can provide figures on ex-Service personnel awarded for PTSD under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS):

- The number of UK ex-Service personnel who have been successfully awarded under the AFCS for mental disorders between 1 April 2007¹ and 30 September 2013.
- Of these, the number of awards under the AFCS for PTSD.
- The information can be provided by financial year of award, age of claimant, gender of claimant, and region of claimant.

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

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://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering deaths, medical discharges or compensation in the UK 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

I hope you find this information useful

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)