



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2014/03829

Date: 20 August 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 July 2014 requesting the following information:

I would like details of all members of the armed forces who registered a claim under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) after sustaining an injury in Afghanistan from 2009 onwards.

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information on compensation claims made under the Armed Forces and Reserves Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) following injury in Afghanistan is held. The information you requested is presented below.

Between 2009/10 and 2013/14 a total of 5,790 claims were registered under the AFCS by 2,375 serving and ex-serving personnel that had previously sustained an injury^a in Afghanistan between 1 January 2009 until 31 March 2014.

In line with Defence Statistics' Rounding Policy, all figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Please note that it is not possible to attribute injuries/illnesses to a specific deployment. Therefore some of the individuals included in the figure provided may have claimed compensation for an injury/illness that did not occur during their deployment.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note the following:

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death caused by 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.

Under the AFCS, compensation payments include a tariff-based tax free lump sum for pain and suffering associated with the injury or illness, the size of which reflects the severity of the injury or illness. There are 15 tariff levels with associated lump sums. For more serious injuries, in addition to the lump sum, a tax-free index-linked income stream known as the Guaranteed Income

^a Includes both battle injuries (BI) and non-battle injuries (NBI)

Payment (GIP) is paid from service termination for life to recognise loss of future earnings due to the injury or illness. Under the AFCS, a claim can be made and awarded while still in Service.

In order to provide specific figures for those who previously deployed on Operations in Iraq/Afghanistan, deployment data for Iraq and Afghanistan have been linked to AFCS data held on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS).

Further information on the AFCS can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans>.

Injuries in this response are classified as follows:

- a. A **Battle Injury** includes those wounded as a result of hostile action. This includes injuries sustained whilst avoiding direct and indirect fire.
- b. A **Non-Battle Injury** is any injury that is not caused by a hostile act and includes any accidental injuries such as sports injuries, road traffic accidents etc.

For a small number of UK Service Personnel it has not been possible to identify if they sustained an injury or had an illness on Operations. These have been recorded as either 'Disease or Non Battle Injury' (DNBI) when it is known that the injury or illness was not as a result of hostile action or 'Unknown' when none of the circumstances of the injury or illness are known. Personnel classed as DNBI have been included in this response.

The figures on the number of casualties presented are sourced from Defence Statistics four main casualty reporting systems (the Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS) system, field hospital admissions data, the Aeromedical Evacuation data and the Joint Theatre Trauma Registry) and have been merged to determine the total number of casualties on Operations in Afghanistan. It does not include personnel who attend a UK or Coalition Medical Field Hospital Facility but who are not admitted. These figures also do not include those who are seen in primary health care.

NOTICAS

NOTICAS is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical staff in theatre judge their condition to be. They are not strictly medical categories but are designed to give an indication of the severity of the injury to inform what the individual's next of kin are told.

Field Hospital Admissions

The EpiNATO J97 returns are used to identify field hospital admissions for UK personnel treated at the UK field hospital as well as those treated at coalition medical facilities in Afghanistan.

Defence Statistics also received information on admissions at the UK Field Hospital from the electronic Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR).

Aeromedical Evacuations

Aeromedical Evacuation is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation. The RAF Aeromedical Evacuation Service provides the worldwide patient air movement capability for Defence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patients are risk assessed prior to flight, and when necessary, trained medical teams are provided to deliver care in the air.

Defence Statistics receive Aeromedical Evacuation records fortnightly from the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) at RAF Brize Norton for Operations in Afghanistan.

Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR)

The Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR) commenced during 2003 to improve the care of the seriously injured patient from the point of injury to the point of discharge from hospital treatment.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering the AFCS and Casualties 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://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health)