



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Reference: FOI2014/04137

Correspondence dated: 6 August 2014

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: 3 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2014 requesting the following information:

For the last three years (calendar):

- *Compensation paid to military personnel, or the families of military personnel, who have been injured while on duty.*
- *Please include a yearly figure as well as a total figure.*
- *Also please provide a breakdown of the payments and the reasons why the payments were made.*

Please provide the information in the form of an electronic spreadsheet where it is reasonably possible.

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve at least 60 working days. Specifically your request will involve;

- Manipulating Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) financial data from financial year format into calendar year format which would take 10 working days.
- Conducting a manual search on all records for those awarded under the AFCS during the last three years, in order to determine individuals' injuries/illnesses for which they awarded. This would take over 50 working days.

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.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that MOD would consider providing the following information if requested:

The total annual amounts paid out under the AFCS during the last three calendar years for lump sum payments only, by year; OR

The total annual amounts paid out under the AFCS during the last three financial years, by year.

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 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.

Under the AFCS, compensation is also paid to individual to reflect the loss of support provided by their partner where their death is due to Service in the form of a survivors' Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP).

Lump sum awards are issued through the Joint Personnel and Administration (JPA) system which is managed by the MOD. GIPs and SGIPs are issued through a third party contractor and a new work stream will need to be set up to retrieve GIP and SGIP information by calendar year.

Claimant information, including injuries/illnesses for which claimants are awarded, is held on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) which is separate system to those which hold financial information.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme 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) Head (B1)