



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

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

Facsimile: +44 (0)1179 319634

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-
FOI@mod.uk

Ref: FOI2016/00711

[REDACTED]

12 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 January requesting the following additional breakdowns from the Location of Armed Forces Compensation and Pension Recipients statistic

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>:

"how many service leavers in each region and what rank are they?"

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 in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with Defence Statistics rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed and all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest 5 in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

The information you requested is attached in annex A. As advised by Defence Statistics in our previous FOI response, it is only possible to provide a breakdown by rank for the AFCS and AFPS data, and only for those who exited the Service from April 2007 onwards.

Veterans include all AFPS recipients, disablement pensioners in receipt of a war pension, and post-Service AFCS recipients. Information presented is not the location of all ex-Service personnel as not all will be in receipt of an occupational pension or compensation.

Individuals have been excluded if DBS are notified of a death. Please note for individuals who have been awarded a lump sum payment under AFCS, DBS may not always be notified of death, therefore numbers may include individuals who have subsequently died.

CAPS and WPCS have been combined to provide the latest postcode information for each individual. The location information presented in the WPS and AFCS National Statistic publications is based only on the address information available on the relevant data system.

Schemes:

There are a number of different occupational pension schemes available to Armed Forces personnel. The data presented in these statistics cover the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) and the 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. Service personnel need to have at least two years' reckonable service before they are entitled to receive benefits on either scheme.

There are currently two Service-attributable compensation schemes in operation;

- 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.
- 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 on or after that date.

Defence Statistics (Health) publish statistics on claims and awards made under the WPS and AFCS which can be found on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

Data Sources:

The figures provided are based on data from two administrative systems. AFPS and AFCS data are sourced from the Veterans UK Compensation and Pension System (CAPS). WPS data are sourced from the Veterans UK War Pension Computer System (WPCS). Veterans UK are responsible for managing these systems and ensuring the quality of the data supplied to Defence Statistics (Health).

The locations of recipients of an occupational pension and/or compensation in the UK were derived by individuals' postcodes as recorded on the CAPS and WPCS as at 31 March 2015. Region information was compiled in line with the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Regional classifications.

Please note these statistics exclude members of the AFPS that are not yet in receipt of their pension (deferred pensions).

An annual Official Statistic provides summary statistics on the location of Armed Forces Pension and compensation recipients by country, region, county, local authority, local health organisation and postcode district. This is published on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>. The latest publication was released on 4 June 2015.

JPA was used to find rank information on exit. Armed Forces personnel data on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System was used to determine individuals' rank. As mentioned in the previous response data has been provided for individuals that left Service from 2007 onwards and only for those in receipt of AFCS or AFPS. The cohort was matched to JPA to determine their rank as at their Service exit date.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering Armed Forces Compensation and War Pension 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)