

Ref: FOI2016/10946

Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services Secretariat Room 6303 Tomlinson House Norcross Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 3WP



6 December 2016



Thank you for your email of 14 November 2016, to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) requesting the following information:

"Please advise the total number of War Pensions that have been awarded to individuals, for radiation sickness from any of the British Nuclear Tests held in Australia and Christmas Island. The War Pensions were paid by SPVA, and it is a small field of less than 200. Even though SPVA has been absorbed by Veterans UK, it should not be difficult or lengthy to filter out a few hundred people. Many of the recipients are already dead. Therefore, it would be helpful if you would filter out the three classes of: 1. Living 2. Dead but active Widow Pension 3. Terminated".

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

I can advise that no claims have been awarded under the War Pension Scheme for the condition 'radiation sickness'.

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, Ground 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/.

