

Ref: FOI2015/09802

3 December 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 4 November 2015 requesting the following information:

*"a) How many of those who received a lump sum payment under the AFCS (23,710 people between 6 April 2005 to 30 September 2014), were still in service on 30 September 2014?"*

*1) How many of those who received a lump sum payment under the AFCS (23,710 people between 6 April 2005 to 30 September 2014), were regular service personnel, volunteer reservists or veterans at the time their claim was cleared?*

*For those who were veterans at the time their claim was cleared, were they regular or volunteer reserve personnel at the point of exit? Following clarification I understand there may be some individuals for whom it is not possible to provide this level of information.*

*2) How many of the 121,900 war disablement pensioners (DPs) on 31 March 2014 were regular service personnel and how many were reservists? Defence Statistics have advised that it is not possible to identify those who were specifically listed as volunteer reservists as this is not recorded on the War Pension data system. Following clarification I understand there are a large number of records where information on Service is not available on the war pensions data and therefore these records will be listed with an unknown assignment type."*

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 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.

Of the 23,710 personnel awarded a lump sum payment between 6 April 2005 and 30 September 2014 under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), **11,925** were still in service as at 30 September 2014.

**Table 1** presents the breakdown of personnel who have received a lump sum payment under the AFCS as at 30 September 2014 by their assignment type at the time their claim was cleared. This may not reflect their assignment type at point of injury/illness.

**Table 1: Personnel who have received a lump sum payment under the AFCS, by assignment type, as at 30 September 2014.**<sup>1</sup>

Assignment Type <sup>2</sup>	Number of Personnel
<b>All</b>	<b>23,710</b>
Regular	22,120
Volunteer Reservist	690
Other <sup>3</sup>	235
Veterans	670

Source: Compensation and Pension Scheme (CAPS) and Joint Personnel Administration (JPA)

1. Sum of the sub-totals may not sum to the totals due to rounding.
2. Assignment type at the time the claim was cleared.
3. Other includes all other assignment types and unknowns.

**Table 2** presents the breakdown of the **670** veterans by their latest known assignment type prior to exit from the Services. This may not reflect their assignment type at point of injury/illness.

**Table 2: Veterans who have received a lump sum payment under the AFCS, by assignment type, as at 30 September 2014.**<sup>1</sup>

Assignment Type <sup>2</sup>	Number of Veterans
<b>All</b>	<b>670</b>
Regular	280
Volunteer Reserve	10
Other <sup>3</sup>	380

Source: Compensation and Pension Scheme (CAPS) and Joint Personnel Administration (JPA)

1. Sum of the sub-totals may not sum to the totals due to rounding.
2. Assignment type as at exit date.
3. Other includes all other assignment types and unknowns.

**Table 3** presents the breakdown of war disablement pensioners under the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) as at 31 March 2014 by assignment type as recorded on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS). Please note that Service information is not reliably recorded on the WPCS. The high proportion of disablement pensioners with an unknown assignment is likely a result of claimants only being eligible to claim under the WPS once they have left Service. It is also not clear whether the assignment type captured reflects a claimant's latest assignment type or their assignment type at the point of injury/illness (since individuals can move from one to another).

**Table 3: Ex-Service Personnel in receipt of a War Pension under the WPS, by assignment type, as at 31 March 2014.**<sup>1</sup>

Assignment Type <sup>2</sup>	Number of Personnel
<b>All</b>	<b>121,900</b>
Regular	66,245
Reservist	2,195
Other <sup>3</sup>	140
Unknown <sup>4</sup>	53,315

Source: War Pensions Computer System (WPCS)

1. Sum of the sub-totals may not sum to the totals due to rounding.
2. Assignment type may be at point time the claim was made or an individual's latest assignment type prior to exit
3. Other includes all other assignment types.
4. Service information is not reliably recorded on the WPCS, see Section 16 for more information.

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

#### *Armed Forces Compensation Scheme*

The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death attributable to 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 and Reserve Forces Pensions Scheme.

A biannual Official Statistic provides summary statistics on claims and awards made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, paying compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service. This is published on the Gov.UK website:

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

The latest version of the report was released on 4 June 2015.

JPA was used to find personnel still in Service as at 30 September 2014 and their assignment type at the time their claim was cleared or on exit.

We are unable to identify whether called out and FTRS personnel are Regular Reserve or Volunteer Reserve pre April 2012. For this response all FTRS and called out mobilised reserves are reported as Volunteer Reserve.

Personnel with a different assignment type to regular or reserve have been grouped into an 'other' category. This category may include military police guard service, locally employed personnel etc.

Figures provided are sourced from data stored on the Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS).

#### *War Pensions Scheme*

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.

An annual Official Statistic provides summary statistics on claims, awards and recipients of pensions, allowances or other payments under the War Pension Scheme where disablement or death occurred as a result of Service prior to 6 April 2005. This is published on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>. The latest update was provided on 4 June 2015.

The Service class type field was used to identify regular/reserve personnel. Service information for personnel is not reliably recorded on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS). All personnel with blank Service information have been grouped into an 'unknown' category. Information can't be matched to JPA due to the unreliability of the data.

Personnel with a different assignment type to regular or reserve have been grouped into an 'other' category. This category may include civilian schemes, emergency rescue, military police guard service, locally employed personnel etc.

Figures provided are sourced from data stored on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS).

In line with Defence Statistics' Rounding Policy for AFCS and WPS data, all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest 5 and figures fewer than five have been suppressed. Due to rounding, the figures provided may not sum to totals.

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 statistics and War Pensions Scheme

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](mailto: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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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)