



Ministry  
of Defence

# Ad Hoc Statistical Bulletin

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme  
Quinquennial Review Statistics:  
2005/06 to 2015/16

Published: 9 March 2017

## Overview

This is an ad hoc statistical bulletin providing information on registered claims and awards under the UK Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005, and provides no fault compensation for injury, illness or death caused by service in the UK Armed Forces on or after this date. Further information on the AFCS and previously published bi-annual AFCS National Statistics can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation>.

During 2016 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) conducted an internal review of the AFCS to determine whether the scheme continues to be fit for purpose ten years on from inception. This review, known as the Quinquennial Review (QQR), has since concluded and findings have been published on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme-quinquennial-review>.

During the review process, Defence Statistics was asked to supply additional information to that published within the bi-annual National Statistics to be used to consider whether registered claims, reconsiderations and appeals, and claim outcomes (specifically awarded claims) were disproportionate amongst the following demographic groups: Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Nationality. Information was also supplied on types of injuries/illness awarded under the AFCS by level of award and demographic groups.

The publication of this bulletin ensures that MOD is open and transparent about the methodology and quality of the statistics provided for the QQR review and that equal access is given to all, as required by the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

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## Results

**The QQR team asked: Were AFCS claims registered disproportionately amongst specific demographic groups?**

Between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016 there were 63,098 initial injury/illness claims registered under the AFCS<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 1** shows that these AFCS claims were not disproportionality registered when comparing the gender and age profile of claimants against the profile of the UK regular Armed Forces.

**Table 1: Registered initial AFCS claims, by Gender<sup>1</sup> and Age Group<sup>2</sup> of Claimant, percentages**

6 April 2005 – 31 March 2016

	AFCS Claimants 6 April 2005 - 31 March 2016 %	UK Regular Armed Forces Strengths 1 April 2015 <sup>3</sup> %
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	91	90
Female	9	10
<b>Age Group<sup>2</sup></b>		
Under 25	24	26
25-29	29	24
30-34	21	19
35-39	12	14
40-44	8	9
45-49	3	5
50 and over	2	3

**Source: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)**

1. As recorded on the CAPS.
2. Age calculated as at date of initial AFCS claim based on date of birth information recorded on the CAPS.
3. 2015 is presented as a representative year for comparison. Table 5 in Annex A presents UK Regular Armed Forces strengths as at 1 April 2005 and 1 April 2015 to provide snapshot information over the ten-year period.

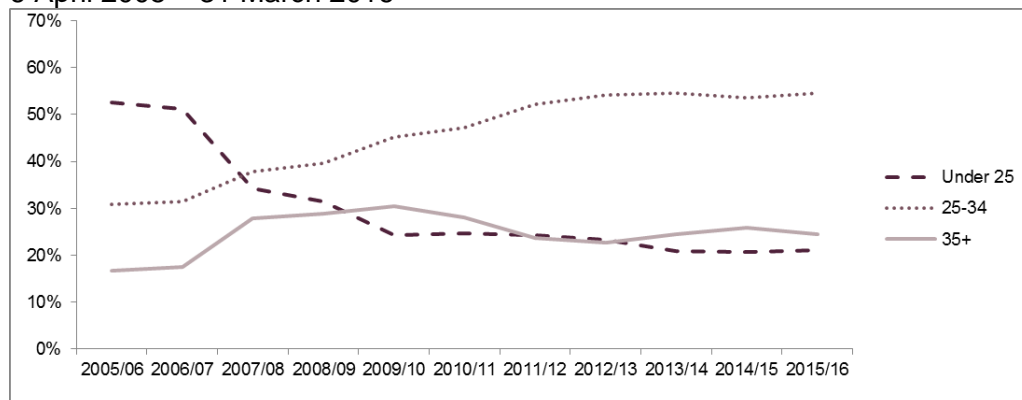
The percentage of initial claims registered by male and female claimants remained consistent each year between 2005/06 and 2015/16 (**Table A1, Annex A**), in line with the gender profile of the regular UK Armed Forces during this time (**Table A5, Annex A**).

The percentage of initial claims registered by claimants within different age groups changed over time (**Figure 1; Table A2 in Annex A**). One driver may have been the changing age profile of the regular UK Armed Forces during the same time period.

<sup>1</sup> Further information on registered claims under the AFCS, including trends over time, can be found in the latest National Statistic Bulletin, published on 8 December 2016: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

**Figure 1: Registered initial AFCS claims, by Age Group<sup>1</sup> of Claimant and financial year, percentages**

6 April 2005 – 31 March 2016



Source: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)

1. Age calculated as at date of initial AFCS claim based on date of birth information recorded on the CAPS.

Table 2 shows that there was a higher percentage of claims registered by claimants who were of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) descent (15% of all AFCS claims) when compared against the percentage of BAME personnel who made up the regular UK Armed Forces (7% as at 1 April 2015). There was also a higher percentage of claims registered by non-British claimants (13% of all AFCS claims) when compared to the percentage of non-British regular UK Armed Forces personnel (5% as at 1 April 2015).

Note that AFCS claimants' ethnicity and nationality were only available from 1 April 2007; therefore Table 2 presents ethnicity and nationality information for claimants with a registered claim between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2016. Please see the Methodology section for further information.

**Table 2: Registered initial AFCS claims, by Ethnicity<sup>1</sup> and Nationality<sup>2</sup> of Claimant, percentages**

April 2007<sup>3</sup> – 31 March 2016

	AFCS Claimants		UK Regular Armed Forces Strengths	
	6 April 2005 - 31 March 2016		1 April 2015 <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Ethnicity<sup>1</sup></b>				
White	83		92	
BAME <sup>5</sup>	15		7	
Unknown	2		1	
<b>Nationality<sup>2,6</sup></b>				
British	86		95	
Non-British	13		5	
<i>Of which:</i>				
African	6			
American	2			
Asian (excl. Nepalese)	0.3			
European (excl. British)	0.2			
Nepalese	1			
Oceanian	3			
Unknown	1			

Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS); Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System

- As recorded on JPA. There were 2,253 records with no ethnicity captured. See Limitations for further details.
- As recorded on JPA. There were 1,396 records with no nationality captured. See Limitations for further details.
- Ethnicity and Nationality information has been compiled using JPA data since 1 April 2007. See Methodology for further details.
- 2015 is presented as a representative year for comparison. Table 5 in Annex A presents UK Regular Armed Forces strengths as at 1 April 2005 and 1 April 2015 to provide snapshot information over the ten-year period.
- BAME claimants are those who self-reported as being Black, Asian or of another Minority Ethnic group on the JPA system.
- See Glossary for definitions of British claimants and Non-British claimants.

The percentage of initial claims registered by BAME claimants increased between 2007/08 and 2013/14, from 8% to 18% (**Table A3, Annex A**). This is likely to be due to improved reporting of ethnicity as the percentage of ‘unknown’ ethnicity decreased during this time (from 8% to 1%). The percentage of White AFCS claimants remained stable.

The percentage of initial claims registered by African claimants increased between 2007/08 and 2013/14, from 2% to 8% (**Table A4, Annex A**). Again, the percentage of ‘unknown’ nationality had decreased during this time (from 7% to <1%) indicating an improved reporting of nationality. The percentage of claimants of other nationalities remained stable.

**Tables A1 – A4 in Annex A** provides further statistics on registered claims by each demographic group.

***The QQR team asked: Were registered AFCS claims awarded disproportionately amongst specific demographic groups?***

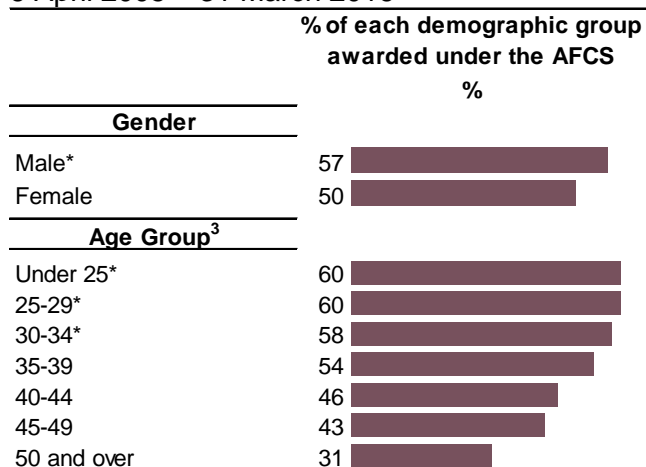
Of the 63,098 initial injury/illness claims registered under the AFCS between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016, 35,601 (56%) were awarded compensation (as at 30 September 2016)<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 3** shows that there were significant<sup>3</sup> differences between the success rates of initial AFCS claims for the following demographic groups:

- A higher percentage of male claimants were awarded following their initial claim than female claimants
- A higher percentage of claimants aged under 35 were awarded following their initial claim than claimants aged 35 and over

**Table 3: Awarded initial AFCS claims, by Gender<sup>1</sup> and Age Group<sup>2</sup> of Claimant, percentages<sup>3,4</sup>**

6 April 2005 – 31 March 2016



**Source: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)**

1. As recorded on the CAPS.
  2. Age calculated as at date of initial AFCS claim based on date of birth information recorded on the CAPS.
  3. For example of all male claimants, 57% were awarded as at 30 September 2016.
  4. As at 30 September 2016.
- \* Demographic groups found to have a significantly higher percentage of claimants using a z-test for proportions at a 95% confidence level.

<sup>2</sup> Further information on awarded claims under the AFCS, including trends over time, can be found in the latest National Statistic Bulletin, published on 8 December 2016: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

<sup>3</sup> Determined using a z-test for proportions at a 95% confidence level

**Table 4** shows that there were differences between the success rate of claimants from different ethnic groups and of different nationality but differences were not significant, though any comparisons were not reliable due to small numbers of initial claims in some of these groups.

Note that AFCS claimants' ethnicity and nationality were only available from 1 April 2007; therefore Table 4 presents ethnicity and nationality information for claimants awarded under the AFCS between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2016. Please see the Methodology section for further information.

**Table 4: Awarded initial AFCS claims, by Ethnicity<sup>1</sup> and Nationality<sup>2</sup> of Claimant, percentages<sup>3,4</sup>**

1 April 2007<sup>5</sup> - 31 March 2016

	% of each demographic group awarded under the AFCS	
	%	
<b>Ethnicity<sup>1</sup></b>		
White	58	
BAME <sup>6</sup>	57	
<b>Nationality<sup>2,7</sup></b>		
British	57	
Non-British	59	
<i>Of which:</i>		
African	57	
American	54	
Asian (excl. Nepalese)	52	
European (excl. British)	65	
Nepalese	60	
Oceanian	64	

**Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS); Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System**

1. As recorded on JPA. There were 2,253 records with no ethnicity captured. See Limitations for further details.
2. As recorded on JPA. There were 1,396 records with no nationality captured. See Limitations for further details.
3. Percentages have been calculated by dividing the number of awarded claimants in each group by the number of all claimants within each group. Therefore percentages presented will not sum to 100%.
4. As at 30 September 2016.
5. Ethnicity and Nationality information has been compiled using JPA data since 1 April 2007. See Methodology for further details.
6. BAME claimants are those who self-reported as being Black, Asian or of another Minority Ethnic group on the JPA system.
7. See Glossary for definitions of British claimants and Non-British claimants.

**Tables A6-A9 in Annex A** provide further statistics on awarded claims by each demographic group.

***The QQR team asked: What were the most common injuries/illnesses awarded under the AFCS?***

All Service-related injuries /illnesses compensated under the AFCS are assigned to a relevant injury/illness group (known as tariff of injury<sup>4</sup>). Further information on all AFCS awards under each tariff of injury can be found in the bi-annual AFCS National Statistic.

AFCS claimants can claim for multiple injuries/illnesses within one claim. Therefore, from the 35,601 initial awarded AFCS claims (as at 30 September 2016), awards were made for 49,098 injuries/illnesses.

**Table 5** shows that two-thirds of all AFCS awards were for 'musculoskeletal disorders' and 'fractures and dislocations' (43% and 26% respectively). This finding was unsurprising given that

<sup>4</sup> The full list of tariff of injuries can be found online: <http://www.infolaw.co.uk/mod/docs/AFCS-2016-05-31.pdf>

over half of the UK Armed Forces personnel who leave the Services via a medical discharge suffer from musculoskeletal disorders and injuries<sup>5</sup>.

**Table 5: Awarded conditions under the AFCS by Tariff of Injury, numbers and percentages<sup>1</sup>**  
6 April 2005 - 31 March 2016

<b>Awarded Claims</b>	<b>49,098</b>	<b>100%</b>
Burns	337	1%
Injuries, Wounding and Scarring	7,738	16%
Mental Disorders	2,171	4%
Physical Disorders	816	2%
Amputations	681	1%
Neurological Disorders	884	2%
Senses	2,685	5%
Fractures and Dislocations	12,522	26%
Musculoskeletal Disorders	21,223	43%
Temporary Awards	21	<1%
Unknown Conditions	20	<1%

**Source: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)**

1. Note that the numbers and percentages presented in Table 5 do not match previously published information as at 31 March as the underlying data changed following a validation exercise. Further details can be found in the latest Background Quality Report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

***The QQR team asked: What is the prevalence of awards for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder?***

The QQR considered trends in awards under the AFCS for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, it was not possible to reliably determine the number of awards made for PTSD each year. Estimates can only be produced based on awarded claims for 'Mental Disorders' where the claimant had stated 'PTSD' on their claim form (as presented in **Table A10, Annex A**). The estimated percentage of all AFCS awards for PTSD has increased over the time period. However it was not possible to determine how much of this was a true increase in the prevalence of Service-related PTSD during this time, and how much was a result of increased claimant *reporting* of PTSD with subsequent awards for different mental health disorders. See Limitations section for further details

***The QQR team asked: Were specific demographic groups awarded more often for specific injuries / illnesses?***

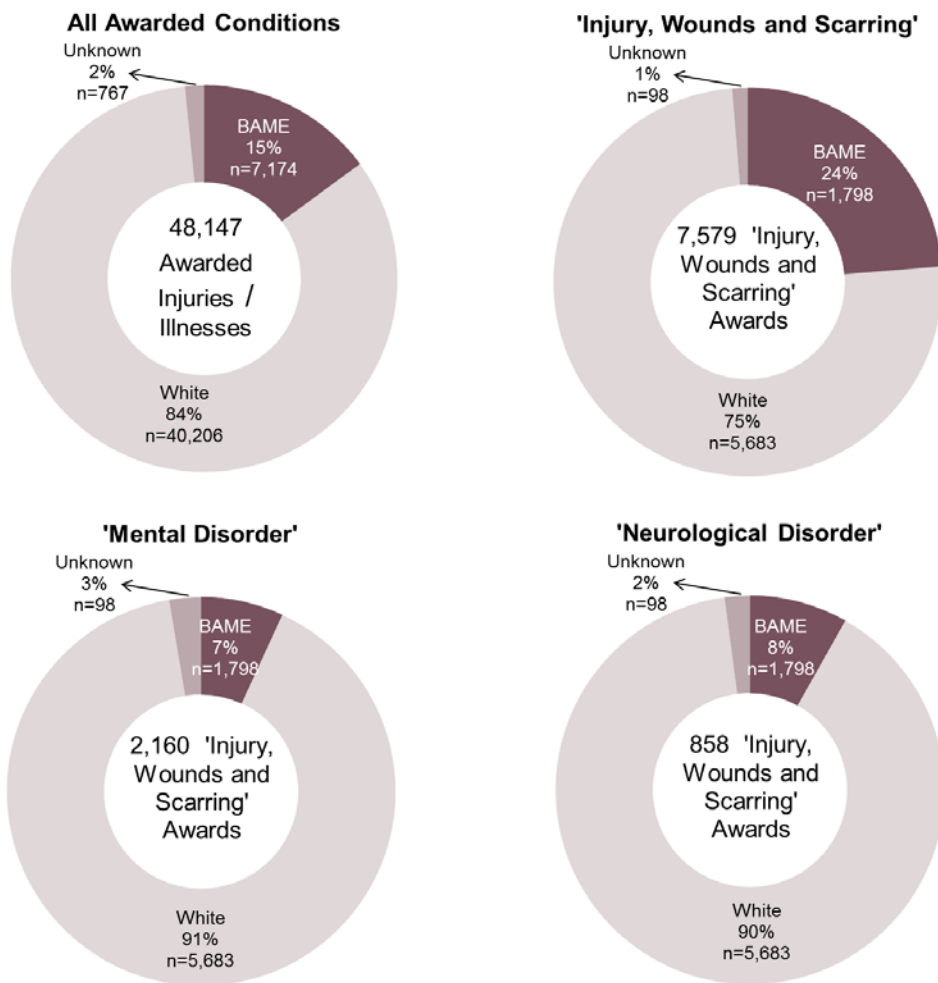
**Tables A11-A14 in Annex A** present detailed statistics on the percentage of each demographic group awarded under each tariff of injury. There were some differences between demographic groups with regards to the percentage awarded under each tariff of injury but in most cases it was not possible to make reliable comparisons due to small numbers in these groups. However, there were significant<sup>6</sup> differences found between the percentage of White and BAME claimants awarded under the following tariff of injuries: 'Injury, Wounds and Scarring', 'Mental Disorders' and 'Neurological Disorders'. **Figure 2** presents the percentages of White and BAME claimants awarded under these tariff of injuries, along with the percentages of all White and BAME claimants awarded under the AFCS, for comparison.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-service-personnel-medical-discharges-financial-year-201516>

<sup>6</sup> Determined using a z-test for proportions at a 95% confidence level.

**Figure 2: AFCS Awards, by Ethnicity<sup>1</sup> of claimant, percentages**

1 April 2007<sup>2</sup> – 31 March 2016



Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS); Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System

1. As recorded on JPA. There were 2,253 records with no ethnicity captured. See Limitations for further details.
2. Ethnicity and Nationality information has been compiled using JPA data since 1 April 2007. See Methodology for further details.

### *Injury, Wounds and Scarring*

A higher percentage of awards under the 'Injury, Wounds and Scarring' tariff of injury were awarded to BAME personnel (24%), when compared with the percentage of ALL awarded conditions (15%) (**Figure 2**). The main driver behind this was the high percentage of awards to BAME personnel for non-freezing cold injuries (NFCI), a subset of the 'Injury, Wounds and Scarring' tariff of injury. Reliable data on NFCI awards were available from 1 April 2011. Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2016, 24% of all awards made under the 'Injury, Wounds and Scarring' tariff of injury were to BAME claimants for NFCI (**Table A13, Annex A**).

This finding supports research on the prevalence of cold injuries amongst afro-caribbean. For example, Imray et al. (2011)<sup>7</sup> concluded that young male afro-caribbeans in the British Army have been found to have a 30 times greater chance of developing peripheral cold injury and are more severely affected than their Caucasian counterparts following similar climatic exposure, using similar clothing and equipment.

<sup>7</sup> Imray CH, Richards P, Greeves J, Castellani JW, 2011, Nonfreezing cold-induced injuries, J R Army Med Corps 157(1): 79-84

A higher percentage of African claimants were also awarded under the 'Injury, Wounds and Scarring' tariff of injury, when compared with the percentage of all awarded conditions amongst African personnel (13% and 6% respectively) (**Table A14, Annex A**). This is due to the association between ethnicity and nationality .

Overall, around 4% of ALL AFCS awards have been paid out for NFCI, and the percentage of NFCI awards each year has remained stable (**Table 10, Annex A**).

#### *Mental Disorders*

A higher percentage of awards under the 'Mental Disorders' tariff of injury were awarded to White personnel (91%), when compared with the percentage of ALL awarded conditions amongst White personnel (84%) (**Figure 2, Table A12 in Annex A** ).

A higher percentage of British claimants were also awarded under the 'Mental Disorders' tariff of injury, when compared with the percentage of ALL awarded conditions (94% and 87% respectively) (**Table A14, Annex A**). Overall 95% of British claimants awarded under the 'Mental Disorders' tariff of injury were White.

#### *Neurological Disorders*

A higher percentage of awards under the 'Neurological Disorders' tariff of injury were awarded to White personnel (90%), when compared with the percentage of ALL awarded conditions (84%) (**Figure 2, Table A12 in Annex A** ).

A higher percentage of British claimants were awarded under the 'Neurological Disorders' tariff of injury, when compared with the percentage of ALL awarded conditions (94% and 87% respectively) (**Table A14, Annex A**). Overall 95% of British claimants awarded under the 'Neurological Disorders' tariff of injury were White.

#### ***The QQR team asked: Were specific demographic groups awarded at higher tariff levels for specific injuries / illnesses?***

The QQR was keen to examine differences between the percentage of claimants within each demographic group awarded at higher tariff levels (tariff levels 1-11), entitling them to receive a Guaranteed Income Payment. Some differences were found, for example, 8% of males awarded for Physical Disorders were awarded at tariff levels 1-11, compared with 2% of females (**Table A11, Annex A**). However, it is difficult to draw any reliable conclusions from the data since many of the comparisons were between groups with very small numbers.

**Tables A11 – A14 in Annex A** provides further statistics on awarded AFCS claims by demographic group and tariff level.

#### ***The QQR team asked: Were AFCS Reconsiderations and Appeals registered disproportionately amongst specific demographic groups?***

Of the 63,098 initial injury / illness claims registered between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016, 9,891 claims went onto Reconsideration and 5,392 went on to Appeal (as at 30 September 2016)<sup>8</sup>.

**Table 6** shows that overall Reconsiderations and Appeals were not disproportionality registered when comparing the gender and age profile of AFCS claimants.

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<sup>8</sup> Further information on registered reconsiderations and appeals under the AFCS, including trends over time, can be found in the latest National Statistic Bulletin, published on 8 December 2016:

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



**Table 6: Registered initial AFCS claims that went on to Reconsideration and Appeal<sup>1</sup>, by Gender<sup>2</sup> and Age Group<sup>3</sup> of Claimant, percentages<sup>4</sup>**

6 April 2005 – 31 March 2016

	% of each group with registered reconsideration	% of each group with registered appeal
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	16 	9 
Female	15 	8 
<b>Age Group<sup>3</sup></b>		
Under 25	13 	7 
25-29	16 	8 
30-34	17 	10 
35-39	18 	9 
40-44	16 	9 
45-49	17 	10 
50 and over	16 	10 

**Source: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)**

1. As at 30 September 2016.
2. As recorded on the CAPS.
3. Age calculated as at date of initial AFCS claim based on date of birth information recorded on the CAPS
4. Percentages have been calculated by dividing the number of registered reconsiderations and appeals in each demographic group by the number of all claimants within each group. Therefore percentages presented will not sum to 100%.

**Table 7** shows that there significant differences between some ethnicity and nationality groups with regards to the percentage of claimants that went on to register Reconsiderations and Appeals.

Note that AFCS claimants' ethnicity and nationality were only available from 1 April 2007; therefore Table 7 presents ethnicity and nationality information for claimants with registered reconsiderations and appeals following initial claims between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2016. Please see the Methodology section for further information.

**Table 7: Registered initial AFCS claims that went on to Reconsideration and Appeal<sup>1</sup>, by Ethnicity<sup>2</sup> and Nationality<sup>3</sup> of Claimant, percentages<sup>4</sup>**

1 April 2007<sup>5</sup> – 31 March 2016

	% of each group with registered reconsideration	% of each group with registered appeal
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>		
White	15	8
BAME <sup>5</sup>	21	11
<b>Nationality<sup>3,6</sup></b>		
British	15	8
Non-British	21	11
Of which:		
African	27	15
American	21	12
Asian (excl. Nepalase)	15	8
European (excl. British)	10	7
Nepalese	21	11
Oceanian	9	5

**Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS); Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System**

1. As at 30 September 2016.
2. As recorded on JPA. There were 2,253 records with no ethnicity captured. See Limitations for further details.
3. As recorded on JPA. There were 1,396 records with no nationality captured. See Limitations for further details.
4. Percentages have been calculated by dividing the number of registered reconsiderations and appeals in each demographic group by the number of all claimants within each group. Therefore percentages presented will not sum to 100%.
5. Ethnicity and Nationality information has been compiled using JPA data since 1 April 2007. See Methodology for further details.
6. BAME claimants are those who self-reported as being Black, Asian or of another Minority Ethnic group on the JPA system.
7. See Glossary for definitions of British claimants and Non-British claimants.

Of the BAME claimants who registered a claim between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2016, 21% of them went on to register a Reconsideration and 11% went on to register an Appeal. This compares with 15% of White claimants that went to register a Reconsideration and 8% of White claimants that went on to register an Appeal.

A higher percentage of claimants from some nationalities went on to register Reconsiderations and Appeals when compared with all claimants;

- African claimants - 27% registered a reconsideration; 15% registered an appeal
- American claimants - 21% registered a reconsideration; 12% registered an appeal
- Nepali claimants – 21% registered a reconsideration; 11 registered an appeal

compared with 15% of British claimants that registered reconsideration, and 8% of British claimants that registered an appeal.

It was not possible from quantitative analysis of the AFCS data to determine why higher percentages of specific ethnic and nationality groups had registered reconsiderations and appeals.

**Tables A15 - A18 in Annex A** provides further statistics on registered Reconsiderations and Appeals by demographic group.

## Limitations

Figures presented on AFCS claim outcomes were based on the outcomes of initial injury/illness claims only. Later claim outcomes e.g. further outcomes following a reconsideration or appeal were not presented within this Ad Hoc Statistical Bulletin. The MOD is planning to develop the analysis of the CAPS data to report on latest claim outcomes. Further information on this can be found within the latest National Statistics report and accompanying Background Quality Report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

There were a number of questions posed by the QQR team that could not be answered due to limitations of the CAPS data

1. Due to the free-text nature of the data on the CAPS it was not possible to determine specific injuries and illnesses for which individuals have claimed, and been awarded for, under the AFCS. It was only possible to search for claimed conditions using specified search terms. As a result it was not possible to support the following questions raised by the QQR team throughout the review:
  - Were successful AFCS claimants awarded compensation for the same injuries/illnesses for which they claimed, or were they awarded for something else?
  - Which injuries/illnesses had unsuccessful AFCS claimants claimed for, and did these differ between demographic groups?
  - Which injuries/illnesses were most commonly claimed for amongst different demographic groups?
2. The QQR team asked whether there were differences between the claim process and claim outcomes for Regulars and Reservists. However the CAPS data does not capture whether claimants were Regular or Reservist at the time of their injury/onset of their illness. It was possible to link the CAPS data to the JPA system to obtain claimants' Regular/Reserve status at the time of their claim (for in-Service claimants) or their latest recorded status (for post-Service claimants). However, personnel can change status and therefore any analysis would be considered unreliable. Therefore this could not be explored.

Due to limitations of the CAPS data some of the information supplied should be interpreted with caution:

1. The QQR team asked for the number of awards under the AFCS for PTSD. PTSD awards are recorded under the general 'Mental Disorders' tariff of injury and cannot be identified. Therefore it was not possible to provide accurate figures. Estimates were supplied for the number of claims for PTSD (using specified search terms in the free-text data) that had gone on to be awarded under the 'Mental Disorders' tariff of injury. However, the figures provided should be interpreted with caution as they may exclude some claims for PTSD where the free-text includes misspellings. They may also include awards for other mental disorders where a decision was made that the claimant in fact was suffering from a different mental health condition to PTSD.
2. Comparisons made in **Tables 1** and **2** between the demographic profile of AFCS claimants and the regular UK Armed Forces should be interpreted with caution since the AFCS figures also include non-regular personnel and veterans who have claimed for compensation under the scheme. It was not possible to identify only Regular AFCS claimants and therefore these comparisons have been presented to provide an indication of the expected demographic profile of all AFCS claimants.

AFCS claim forms do not capture the ethnicity and nationality of claimants. Therefore this information is not recorded on the CAPS. This information was sourced from the JPA system for all claimants with a registered claim since 1 April 2007 (see Methodology for further details). Service

personnel were responsible for self-reporting their ethnicity and nationality on the JPA system and therefore the accuracy of reporting is reliant on self-reported entry. In addition the recording of this information was not mandatory and therefore 2,253 (4%) claims were registered by claimants with no recorded ethnicity, and 1,396 (2%) claims were registered by claimants with no recorded nationality.

It was not possible to reliably determine awards made for NFCI prior to 1 April 2011. Since this date (following recommendation from 2010 Lord Boyce Review) NFCI awards were recorded on the CAPS.

## Methodology

### *Data Sources*

Information presented within this Statistical Bulletin on all AFCS claims and claim outcomes was sourced from data held on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS). The CAPS is managed by Veterans UK who are responsible for administering the scheme, and for ensuring the quality of the data supplied to Defence Statistics.

Claimants' ethnicity and nationality information was sourced from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, used by the Armed Forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personnel administrative tasks. JPA replaced a number of single-Service IT systems and was implemented in April 2006 for RAF, November 2006 for Naval Service and April 2007 for Army. It was not feasible to interrogate the legacy single-Service systems for purposes of the QQR review with the time and resource available.

### *Data Coverage*

The data presented include all AFCS claims registered on the CAPS between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2016. All trained and untrained regular (including Gurkhas and Military Provost Guard Staff) and reservist personnel were eligible to claim compensation for Service-related injury / illness.

Dependants of those who died as a result of Service were also eligible to claim for compensation via a survivors' claim. However the QQR focused on injury/illness claims and therefore data on survivors' claims registered following death in Service were excluded from this analysis.

The figures presented cover all injury/illness claims registered during the reported time period. They do not represent all individuals who have sustained a Service related injury/illness during that time. There can be a time lag between an individual's injury/illness and the date they make a claim. Individuals have up to seven years to make an injury/illness claim from the date of their initial injury/diagnosis. There are some exceptions to this such as late-onset illnesses. Claims for a late-onset illness can be made at any time after the event to which it relates, as long as it is done so within three years of seeking medical advice.

### *Statistical Analysis*

The z test for independent proportions was performed on the data to identify whether AFCS claimants within specific demographic groups had a significantly higher percentage of awarded claims, for example to compare whether males had a significantly higher percentage of awards than females. The confidence level to which this test was performed is 95%: this means that any significant finding will be true in greater than 95% of cases.

### *Disclosure Control*

In line with JSP 200 (April 2016), all figures supplied within this Ad Hoc Statistical Bulletin were scrutinised to ensure that individuals cannot be inadvertently identified. Whilst there are some small numbers presented, any risk of disclosure was considered minimal.

## Glossary

<b>Appeal</b>	If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of their claim they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.
<b>Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)</b>	Compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve forces. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death attributable to service where the cause occurred on or after 6 April 2005.
<b>Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)</b>	Term used to refer to members of non-white communities in the UK.
<b>British AFCS Claimants</b>	British nationality includes any individuals whose nationality is recorded on the JPA system as Anguilla, Bermuda, British, British Hong Kong, British Overseas Territories, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands or Turks and Caicos Islands. For further details, see: <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61/schedule/6">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61/schedule/6</a>
<b>Claim</b>	The term 'claim' is used to refer to both injury claims raised by claimant as well as medical discharge and death-in-service cases which are automatically referred to Veterans UK for consideration.
<b>Cleared Claim</b>	A claim is classed as cleared when Veterans UK issue a letter to the claimant informing them of the outcome of their claim, reconsideration, or appeal.
<b>Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)</b>	AFCS database system administered by Veterans UK.
<b>Guaranteed Income Payment</b>	A Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) is a payable when an award has been made and the injury or illness is in tariff levels 1 to 11.
<b>Initial Injury/illness claim</b>	Claims made by serving or former members of the Armed Forces for an injury or illness caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005. They include in-Service claims, medical discharge claims and post-Service claims.
<b>Lord Boyce Review</b>	In 2010 a review of the AFCS was conducted under the independent chairmanship of former Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral the Lord Boyce. The Review found the Scheme was fundamentally sound but required adjustment in some areas. A full summary of the Review can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/pensions-">https://www.gov.uk/pensions-</a>

and-compensation-for-veterans#review-of-the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme.

**Lump Sum Award**

A tax-free lump sum payment is paid to a Service or ex-Service person as compensation for pain and suffering for an injury or illness that is predominantly caused or made worse by Service.

**Non-British AFCS Claimants**

All AFCS claimants excluding British claimants (see British AFCS Claimants) were grouped into continent of origin. Oceanian claimants include those from Australia, New Zealand and proximate islands. See: <https://www.countries-ofthe-world.com/countries-of-australia-and-oceania.html>

**Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT)**

The PAT hears appeals from servicemen and servicewomen who have disagreed with the decision made by Veterans UK on the outcome of their claim.

**Reconsideration**

If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of their claim they may ask for Veterans UK to reconsider their claim.

**Registered Claim**

A claim is classed as registered when Veterans UK begin a workflow on the CAPS for a claim.

**Survivor's Claim**

Claims made by surviving dependents of former Armed Forces Personnel where death was caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005. They include death-in-Service claims, death-post-Service claims and additional child claims. One awarded survivors' claim may result in multiple payments (e.g. to a spouse and children).

**Tariff Level**

The AFCS Tariff has 15 levels from 1 (most severe) to 15 (least severe). Each tariff level has a corresponding level of lump sum payment.

**Veterans UK**

Veterans UK administer the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.

## Further Information

### Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

#### Defence Statistics (Health)

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Email: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

#### Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

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Price Indices	030 6793 2100	<a href="mailto:DefStrat-Econ-ESES-PI-Hd@mod.uk">DefStrat-Econ-ESES-PI-Hd@mod.uk</a>
Naval Service Manpower	023 9254 7426	<a href="mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Navy-Hd@mod.uk">DefStrat-Stat-Navy-Hd@mod.uk</a>
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