



This annual Statistical Bulletin presents summary statistics on claims, awards and recipients of pensions, allowances or other payments under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) where disablement or death occurred as a result of Service prior to 6 April 2005.

For the first time these statistics also include information on clearance times of WPS claims and financial amounts paid out under the WPS. This has been included following increased interest in this information, both internally and externally to MOD.

These statistics have been provided in response to a high volume of requests for information about claims and awards under the scheme, and the number of individuals currently in receipt of a War Pension. A range of information is requested including further details of claims and awards (e.g. by claim type or outcome) and further information on those awarded compensation (e.g. age group, gender or Service).

All tables provided in previous releases of this report have been updated with 2015/16 data and are available in the separate Excel file at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>.

## Key Points

- As at 31 March 2016 under the War Pension Scheme, 111,228 ex-Service personnel were in receipt of a disablement pension and 18,950 people were in receipt of a war widow(er)s' pension.
- Since the 1 April 2006 the number of registered War Pension claims has decreased over time. This was a result of injury/illness claims for compensation caused by Service on or after 2005 being processed under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).
- The average (median) clearance time for first disablement claims cleared over the five-year period 2011/12 - 2015/16 was within seven calendar months (138 working days).
- The average (median) clearance time for war widow(er) claims cleared over the five-year period 2011/12 - 2015/16 was within one calendar month (15 working days).
- As at 31 March 2016 over one third (38%) of supplementary allowances were paid out in the form of age addition allowances. Age addition allowances are made to help a pensioner cope with the increased costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement, rather than any acceptance that the disablement worsens with age.
- In 2015/16, £548.7 million was paid out to disablement pensioners and £246 million was paid out to war widow(er)s.

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**Background Quality Report:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-statistics-background-quality-reports-index>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk)

## Introduction

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Other bulletins in this series can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/war-pensions-scheme-statistics-2015>

Supplementary tables (Annex A) containing all data presented in this publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/war-pensions-scheme-statistics-2015>

1. This Statistical Bulletin presents summary information on ex-Service personnel and their dependants that have claimed for compensation under the War Pension Scheme (WPS).
2. The WPS provides no-fault compensation for all ex-service personnel and their dependants where illness, injury or death is caused by Service from the start of the First World War in 1914 up until 5 April 2005.
3. These statistics are used by external organisations such as NHS trusts, local Government and Armed Forces charities, and within the MOD to support work planning and policy development.
4. In previous reports figures were presented in line with Defence Statistics rounding policy. This policy has now been superseded by the JSP 200 and figures are presented in line with the disclosure control guidelines. See further information in the Background Quality Report.
5. The MOD also produces a biannual National Statistic on the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and an annual Official Statistic on the location of pension and compensation recipients. These publications can be found on the Gov.UK website:
  - AFCS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>
  - Location Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>

### Claim Types

**First disablement claim-** All ex-Service personnel are entitled to register first claims under the War Pensions Scheme for injuries/illnesses as a result of Service prior to 6 April 2005.

**War widow(er)s claim-** All eligible spouses are entitled to claim for a war widow(er)s pension if their partner died whilst in Service or their death was related to a disablement due to Service prior to 6 April 2005.

**Second/Subsequent disablement claim-** Following a first claim, ex-Service personnel can claim for further conditions or have their claim reviewed if circumstances change.

**Supplementary Allowance claim-** War Pensioners are entitled to claim for extra allowances on top of their pension for certain circumstances.

**Appeal-** All claimants are entitled to lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal if they are not satisfied with the outcome of their claim.

## Results: Recipients of a War Pension

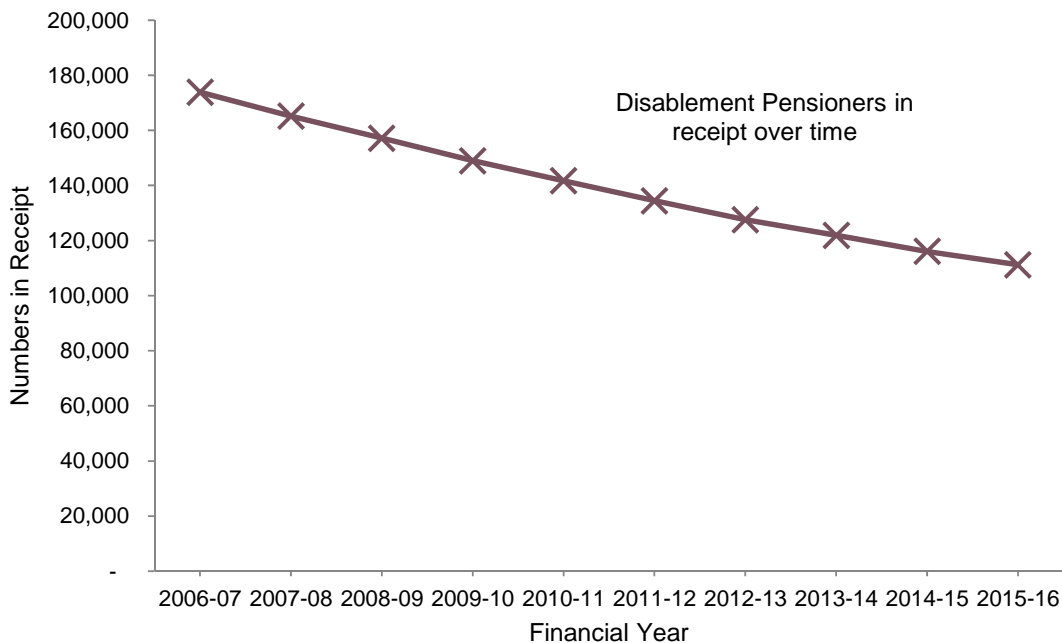
- This section provides information on recipients of a war pension as at 31 March 2016. Ex-UK Armed Forces Service personnel are entitled to make a claim under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) for injuries/illnesses that were due to Service prior to 6 April 2005. If the claim is awarded under the WPS at 20% or higher, the individual is entitled to a disablement pension. Eligible spouses are able to claim for a war widow(er)s' pension under the WPS if their partners' death was caused or substantially hastened by Service.

### *Disablement Pension*

- As at 31 March 2016 there were 111,228 ex-Service personnel in receipt of a disablement pension, of which only nine were due to a Service related injury prior to World War 2.
- Since 1 April 2006, the number of ex-Service personnel in receipt of a disablement pension has decreased year on year (**Figure 1**). This was due to the numbers of people leaving the scheme being consistently higher than the numbers of people entering the scheme (**Annex A, Table 4**). During 2015/16, 1,771 entered the scheme (new recipients of a disablement pension) compared with 6,598 disablement pensioners that left the scheme (ceased to receive their pension). The main reason for the cessation of a disablement pension was death (due to the age profile of war pension recipients). Other reasons for leaving the scheme included: failure to draw the pension for one year; refusal to undergo a medical examination or provide medical evidence or; imprisonment.

**Figure 1: Ex-UK Armed Forces Service personnel in receipt of a disablement pension, by financial year, numbers**











































1 April 2006 to 31 March 2016



Source: War Pensions Computer System

## Results: Recipients of a War Pension (cont.)

**Figure 2: Demographic breakdown of all disablement pensioners, numbers, and percentages**  
As at 31 March 2016

	Total	111,228		Percentage of Disablement Pensioners
<b>Gender</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	
	Male	105,788	95%	
	Female	5,440	5%	
<b>Age</b>				
	Under 35	1,339	1%	
	Aged 35-39	2,463	2%	
	Aged 40-44	6,033	5%	
	Aged 45-49	9,817	9%	
	Aged 50-54	10,386	9%	
	Aged 55-59	10,583	10%	
	Aged 60-64	8,593	8%	
	Aged 65-69	9,941	9%	
	Aged 70-74	9,431	8%	
	Aged 75-79	12,013	11%	
	Aged 80-84	11,728	11%	
	Aged 85-89	7,926	7%	
	Aged 90-94	8,159	7%	
	Aged 95 and over	2,816	3%	
<b>Location</b>				
	North East	7,712	7%	
	North West	12,140	11%	
	Yorkshire and the Humber	8,112	7%	
	East Midlands	7,590	7%	
	West Midlands	6,310	6%	
	East of England	7,128	6%	
	London	2,832	3%	
	South East	13,743	12%	
	South West	16,029	14%	
	Wales	6,392	6%	
	Scotland	10,608	10%	
	N.Ireland	3,690	3%	
	Other UK <sup>1</sup>	299	<1%	
	UK Unknown	281	<1%	
	Overseas	8,221	7%	
	Not Known	141	<1%	
<b>Disablement Percentage</b>				
	20	45,107	41%	
	30	26,932	24%	
	40	15,807	14%	
	50	8,293	7%	
	60	5,276	5%	
	70	3,048	3%	
	80	2,398	2%	
	90	729	1%	
	100	3,015	3%	
	Not Known	623	1%	

**Source: War Pensions Computer System**

<sup>1</sup> Other UK includes Isle of Man and Channel Islands

<sup>2</sup> A percentage of up to 100% is awarded to awarded claimants dependent on how disabled the person is.

## Results: Recipients of a War Pension (cont.)

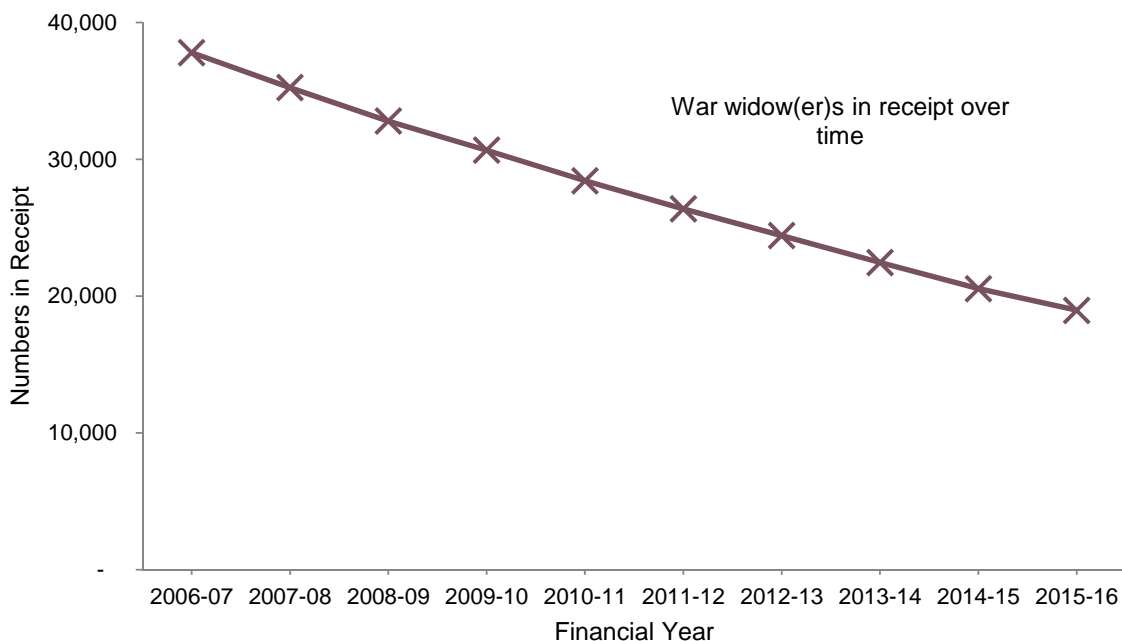
9. The majority of disablement pensioners were male (95%) with the highest percentage located in the South East and South West of England (26%) (**Figure 2**). These results were expected as, from the Annual Population Survey, the majority of veterans residing in Great Britain were estimated to be male (89.5%) and the highest percentage were estimated to be located in these regions (28.6%)<sup>1</sup>. The higher proportion of disablement pensioners being male, compared to the veteran population, may be due to males being more likely to be in roles which result in a severe injury/illness.
10. The amount of money awarded was dependent on the extent of the disablement (disablement percentage); over half of ex-Service personnel in receipt of a War Pension had been assessed with a disablement percentage of 30% or less.
11. As at 31 March 2016, 14,028 (13%) disablement pensioners who were in receipt of an ongoing War Pension claimed for a mental health condition related to Service. Of these 7,053 had claimed specifically for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This information is provided due to the continued interest in mental health. Please note MOD only holds information centrally on the conditions claimed for; not the conditions for which they received a final award (which may or may not have been the same). See Background Quality Report for more detail.

### *War Widow(er)s Pension*

12. As at 31 March 2016 there were 18,950 eligible spouses in receipt of a war widow(er)s' pension with the number in receipt decreasing year on year from 1 April 2006 (**Figure 3**).

**Figure 3: People in receipt of a war widow(er)s pension, by financial year, numbers**

As at 31 March 2007 to as at 31 March 2016



Source: War Pensions Computer System

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>

## Results: Recipients of a War Pension (cont.)

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13. The decline in the number of spouses in receipt of a war widow(er)s pension was due to the numbers of people leaving the scheme being consistently higher than the numbers of people entering the scheme (**Annex A, Table 4**). During 2015/16, 453 entered the scheme (new war widow(er)s in receipt of a pension) compared with 2,036 leaving the scheme (ceased to receive their pension). In the majority of cases, pensions were ceased due to the death of the war widow(er). In addition, up until 1 April 2015, war widow(er)s' pensions were ceased when they remarried or cohabitated, though following a policy change effective from 1 April 2015, war widow(er)s that previously had their pension ceased due to remarriage were eligible to claim again for a pension. Therefore, no-one left the scheme during 2015/16 due to re-marriage. Further information on this policy change can be found in the Background Quality Report.

## Results: Recipients of a War Pension (cont.)

**Figure 4: Demographic breakdown of all war widow(er)s, numbers, and percentages**  
As at 31 March 2016

	Total	18,950		Percentage of War Widow(er)s
		N	%	
<b>Gender</b>				
	Male	74	<1%	
	Female	18,876	100%	
<b>Age</b>				
	Under 35	31	<1%	
	Aged 35-39	47	<1%	
	Aged 40-44	133	1%	
	Aged 45-49	248	1%	
	Aged 50-54	358	2%	
	Aged 55-59	508	3%	
	Aged 60-64	660	3%	
	Aged 65-69	1,091	6%	
	Aged 70-74	1,564	8%	
	Aged 75-79	2,154	11%	
	Aged 80-84	2,747	14%	
	Aged 85-89	3,522	19%	
	Aged 90-94	3,766	20%	
	Aged 95 and over	2,121	11%	
<b>Location</b>				
	North East	696	4%	
	North West	1,709	9%	
	Yorkshire and the Humber	1,317	7%	
	East Midlands	1,219	6%	
	West Midlands	1,208	6%	
	East of England	1,652	9%	
	London	863	5%	
	South East	3,162	17%	
	South West	2,594	14%	
	Wales	1,028	5%	
	Scotland	1,416	7%	
	N.Ireland	526	3%	
	Other UK <sup>1,2</sup>	~	~	
	UK Unknown	57	<1%	
	Overseas	1,443	8%	
	Not Known <sup>2</sup>	~	~	

**Source: War Pensions Computer System**

1 Other UK includes Isle of Man and Channel Islands

2 ~ In line with JSP 200 on statistical disclosure, figures less than three have been suppressed. Please see Background quality report for more information.

14. Further information on recipients of War Pensions in receipt over time under the WPS is presented in **Tables 1 to 7** in **Annex A**.

## Results: Recipients of Supplementary Allowances

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15. This section provides information on disablement and war widow(er)s pensioner in receipt of a supplementary allowance. Individuals in receipt of a war pension are able to claim for additional support (supplementary allowances<sup>2</sup>) for certain circumstances such as unemployment.
16. As at 31 March 2016, 102,389 supplementary allowances were in payment. The most frequently claimed for supplementary allowances are the age addition allowances which accounted for more than one third (38%<sup>3</sup>) of all allowances. Age addition allowances are paid out from age 65 are made to help a pensioner cope with the increased costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement, rather than any acceptance that the disablement worsens with age.
- 20% of disablement pensioners were in receipt of an age addition allowance. Please note not all disablement pensioners aged 65 and over are in receipt of an age addition allowance as those with a disablement percentage of less than 40% are not eligible to claim (**Figure 5**).
  - 90% of war widow(er)s were in receipt of an age addition allowance which aligns with the percentage who were aged 65 and over as there are no further requirements to receive the allowance (**Figure 5**).

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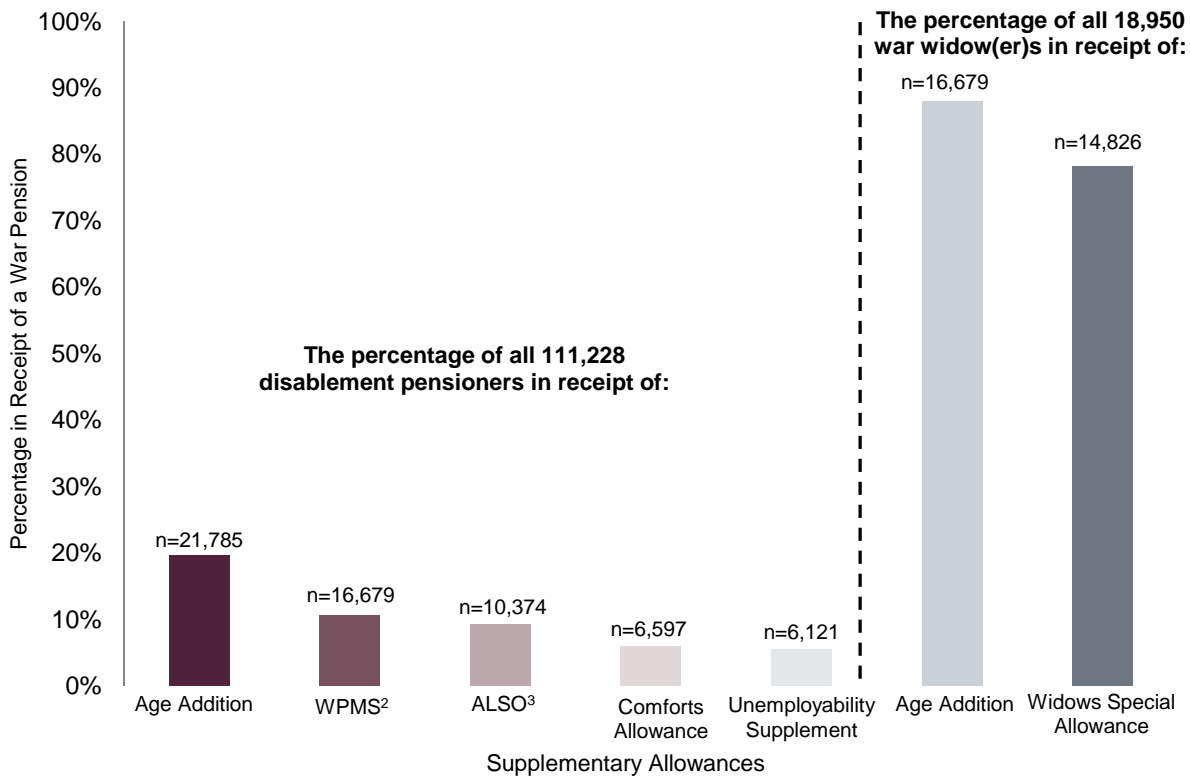
<sup>2</sup>Part II <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/606/contents>

<sup>3</sup> Includes Age Addition allowances for both disablement pensions and war widow(er)s pensions



## Results: Recipients of Supplementary Allowances (cont.)

**Figure 5: Supplementary allowances<sup>1</sup> in payment, numbers and percentages**  
As at 31 March 2016



**Source: War Pensions Computer System**

1 Only the supplementary allowances with the highest number of recipients are presented. There were a further 14,127 supplementary allowances in payment across 16 other allowances which are presented in Annex A Table 23.

2 War Pensioner's mobility supplement

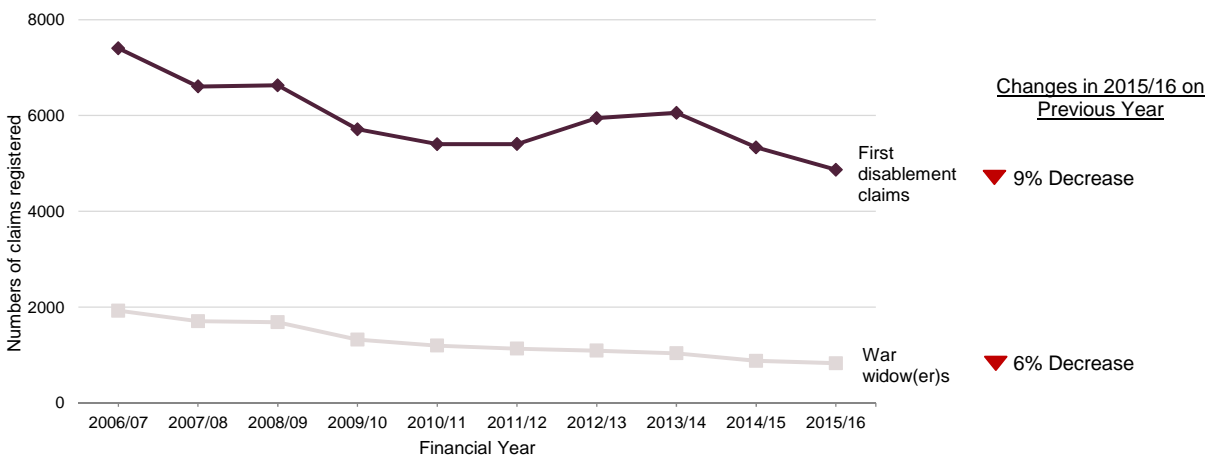
3 Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

17. Further information on recipients of Supplementary allowances under the WPS are presented in **Tables 8 & 9 in Annex A.**

## Results: Registered claims

18. This section provides information on registered claims for the disablement and war widow(er)s pensioners. For disablement pensioners the initial claim (first) is presented separately to any subsequent (second) claims. Subsequent claims are made to add further conditions and/or review first claims. Information is also presented on supplementary allowances and appeals. All claimants are entitled to make an appeal if they are not satisfied with the claim outcome.
19. Since 2006/07 there has been a steady decrease in the number of registered first claims by ex-Service personnel (disablement claims) falling by 34% from 7,404 in 2006/07 to 4,868 in 2015/16 (**Figure 6**). This decrease was mainly a result of injury/illness claims believed to be caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005 being reviewed under the AFCS rather than the WPS. Claims are continuing to be registered under the WPS as claimants are not able to claim until they have left Service.

**Figure 6: War Pension Scheme first and war widow(er)s claims registered, by claim type and financial year, numbers**  
2006/07 - 2015/16



Source: War Pensions Computer System

20. Whilst the numbers of registered first disablement claims reduced over the whole time period, there was an increase from 5,404 in 2011/12 to 6,056 in 2013/14 (**Figure 6**). This increase was linked to redundancies, following the Strategic Defence and Security Review<sup>4</sup>, increasing the numbers leaving the Armed Forces over the time period<sup>5</sup>.
21. Annual numbers of war widow(er)s' registered claims have decreased over time (**Figure 6**) falling by 57% from 1,927 in 2006/07 to 830 in 2015/16. This was likely to be as a result of war widow(er)s' claims only being considered under the WPS where a spouse's death has been caused by, or substantially hastened by, Service prior to 6 April 2005. Compensation claims submitted by spouses and dependants following a Service-related death on or after 6 April 2005 are reviewed under the AFCS.
22. This decrease was seen across all other claim types (second/subsequent claims, supplementary allowances and appeals) (**Figure 7**).

<sup>4</sup> The strategic defence and security review: securing Britain in an age of uncertainty:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-strategic-defence-and-security-review-securing-britain-in-an-age-of-uncertainty>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-monthly-manning-statistics-index>

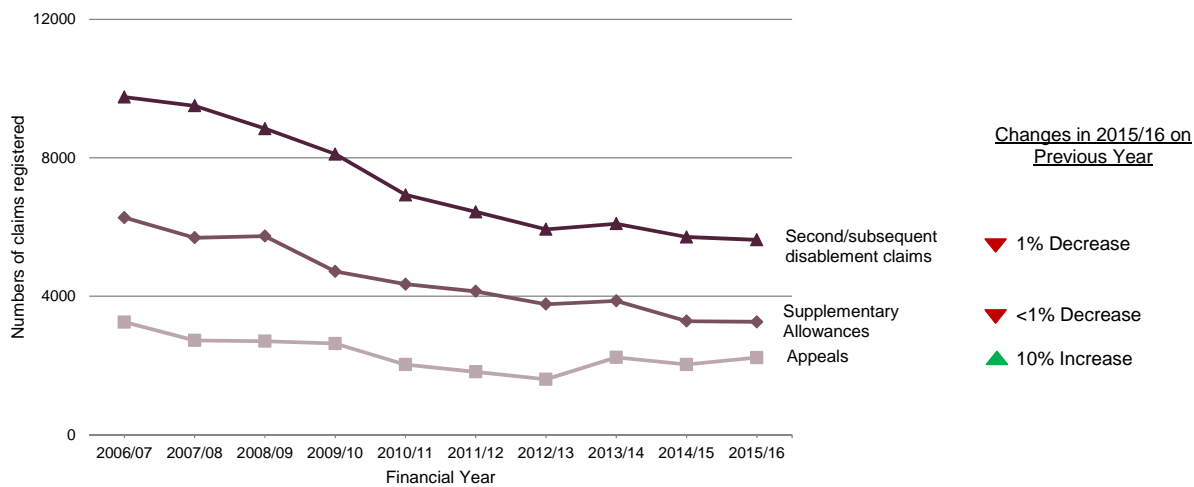
## Results: Registered claims (cont.)

23. Supplementary allowances are claimed for on top of disablement and war widow(er)s pensions for specific circumstances. Numbers of registered supplementary allowances reduced by 48% from 6,271 in 2006/07 to 3,257 in 2015/16 in line with the reduction of ex-Service personnel in receipt of a war pension.

24. If a claimant is unhappy with any claim (first disablement, second/subsequent disablement, war widow(er)s or supplementary allowance) they are entitled to lodge an appeal with an appropriate Tribunal. Annual numbers of registered appeals decreased between 2005/06 and 2012/13, but have remained stable from 2014/15 following an increase in 2013/14 (**Figure 7**). The reasons for this trend are not known but will continue to be monitored.

**Figure 7: War Pension Scheme second/subsequent claims, supplementary allowance claims and appeals<sup>1</sup> registered, by claim type and financial year, numbers**

2006/07 - 2015/16



1. Includes appeals for all claim types.

25. Further information on registered claims are presented in **Tables 10 & 11** in **Annex A**.

## Results: Claim Outcomes

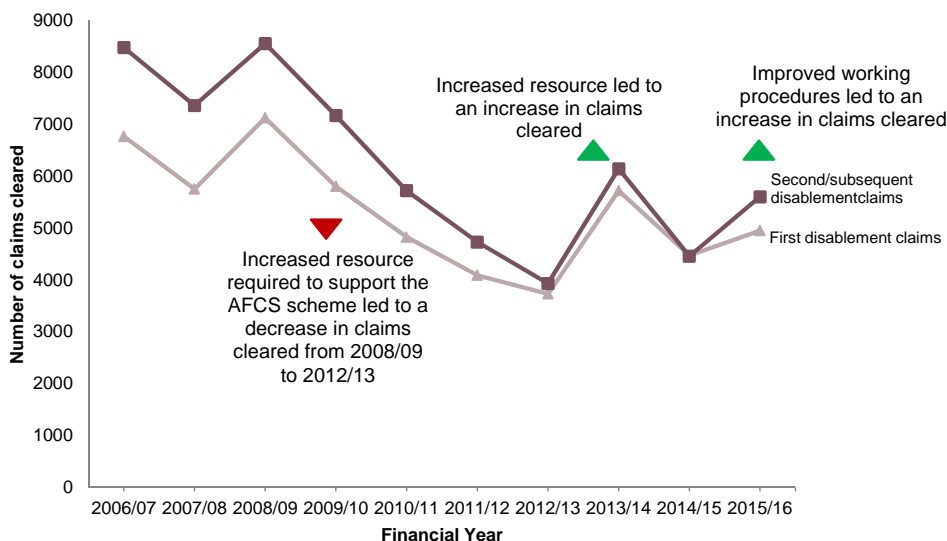
26. This section provides information on the outcomes of all claim types. A registered claim is cleared once an outcome has been reached. This section looks at the numbers of cleared claims and the outcomes for first disablement claims, war widow(er)s' claims, second/subsequent disablement claims and appeals.

27. The numbers of cleared disablement claims (first and second/subsequent) have been variable over time (**Figure 8**):

- From 2008/09 to 2012/13 the numbers of cleared first and second/subsequent disablement claims decreased each year from a total of 15,683 in 2008/09 to a total of 7,660 in 2012/13. The decline in cleared claims during this time is likely to be a result of several factors including a reduction in overall staffing levels and the need to provide increased support to the AFCS scheme during this period, in particular following the Lord Boyce review which required all AFCS claims to be reconsidered between 2011 and 2012.
- In 2013/14 the numbers of first and second/subsequent disablement claims cleared increased by 55% from the previous year. Again this may be due to several factors including the implementation of new ways of working, the end of the AFCS 'Boyce' reconsideration work and the use of overtime and temporary staff to reduce the number of outstanding claims.
- In 2014/15 the numbers of first and second/subsequent disablement claims cleared reduced due to less claims being received during that period and a continuing focus on reducing the number of older, more complex, cases.
- In the latest financial year (2015/16) the numbers of first and second/subsequent disablement claims cleared increased by 18% on the previous year due to further improved working practices which reduced processing times.

**Figure 8: War Pension Scheme first and second/subsequent disablement claims cleared by financial year, numbers<sup>1</sup>**

1 April 2006 to 31 March 2016



Source: War Pensions Computer System

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to paragraph 27 for further information on trends presented in this figure.

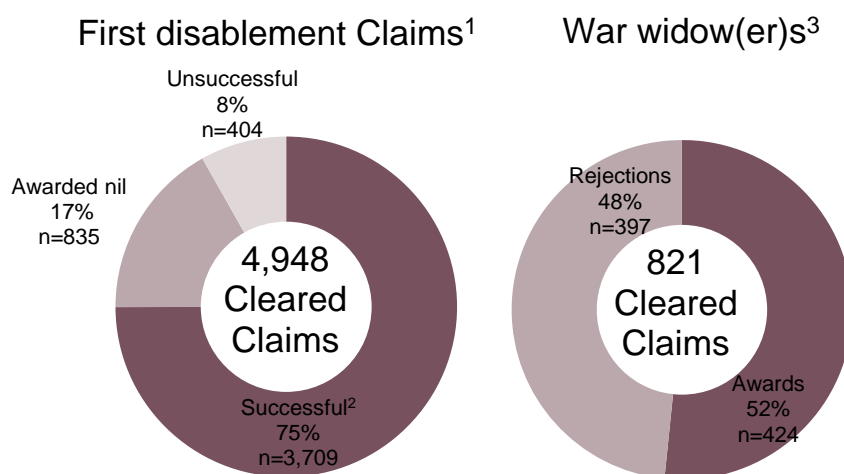
<sup>2</sup> Voluntary Early Release Scheme (VERS)

## Results: Claim Outcomes (cont.)

28. A cleared claim is either awarded/successful or rejected/unsuccessful. Disablement claims are awarded at different levels of payments dependent on their disablement percentage. War widow(er)s claims are awarded at different levels dependent on whether their spouse was an officer/rank and if they had children at the time of death.
29. During 2015/16 the majority of cleared first disablement claims were successful (75%) which resulted in a one off gratuity payment (lump sum) or a war pension. Of the successful claims, just over a quarter (28%) were assessed with a disablement percentage of 20% or above and were therefore in receipt of a war pension. Please note, a claimant can be successful but receive a nil payment if a doctor concluded their condition was due to Service but was not severe enough to impact on a daily life (**Figure 9**).
30. In 2015/16 over half (52%) of war widow(er)s claims were awarded (**Figure 9**). The main reason for war widow(er)s claims not being awarded was due to the death of the eligible partner not being attributable to Service.

**Figure 9: War Pensions Scheme cleared claims by claim type and outcome, numbers and percentage of cleared claims**

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016



**Source: War Pensions Computer System**

1 Figures include first disablement claims only due to the complexity of second/subsequent claim outcomes.

2 Includes those awarded a gratuity payment and a war pension

3 Figures include restored Widows; Figures do not include widow(er)s' reviews.

31. Of second/subsequent disablement claims cleared during 2015/16, 49% resulted in an increased entitlement or a new award (**Annex A, Table 14**). Second claims included claims for further conditions or deterioration of an existing condition. They also included reviews made by Defence Business Services Veterans UK (DBS) to assess whether the level of disablement has changed since the initial assessment was made. Awarded second claims reflected the increase in severity of some conditions with age.

## Results: Claim Outcomes (cont.)

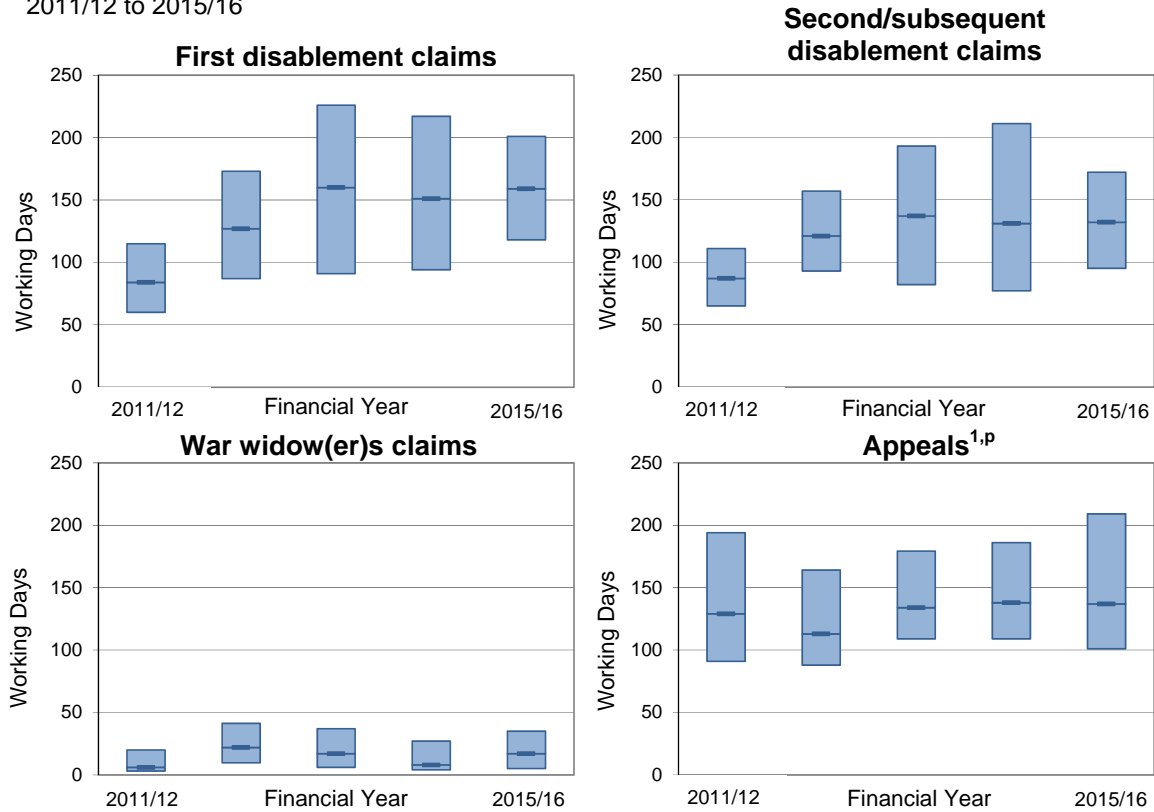
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32. A small proportion (6%) of second/subsequent claims cleared during 2015/16 resulted in a rejected or reduced outcome (**Annex A, Table 14**). When individuals submit second/subsequent claims, a comparison is made between the condition of the member and the condition of a normal healthy person of the same age and sex. It is a current assessment and the decision is based on current medical evidence therefore the pension awarded may be reduced in value.
33. Of the 3,010 supplementary allowance cleared claims between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016, 1,879 were awarded. There were different success rates for each type of allowance for example: 63% of Mobility supplement claims, 93% of additional child allowance and 73% of employability supplement were successful. Information on all allowances is in **Annex A, Table 17**.
34. All claimants can have a decision reviewed by an independent tribunal (Pension Appeal Tribunal – PAT). Of all the appeals cleared by the PAT between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016, 38% of disablement appeals were successful and 11% of widow(er)s appeals were successful. Appeal success rates were generally lower than other claims since in the majority of cases the original claim outcome resulted from a fair assessment.
35. Further information on claims cleared and claim outcomes under the WPS are presented in **Tables 12 to 18 in Annex A**.

## Results: Claim clearance times

36. This section presents information on the time taken to clear a claim. The average (median) has been provided as an indication of how long an average claimant can expect to wait for a decision. Clearance times have been calculated based on the number of working days between the registered date and the cleared date of the claim. The average (mean) has been provided in Annex A.

**Figure 10: War Pension Scheme claim clearance times, by claim type and financial year, median average, upper quartile and lower quartile<sup>1,p</sup>**  
2011/12 to 2015/16



<sup>1</sup> Appeals calculated from date of registered claim to date an outcome has been decided by the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT), Ministry of Justice.

<sup>p</sup> Figures are marked provisional whilst underlying data used to calculate appeal clearance times are quality assured. Please see Background Quality Report for more details.

## **Results: Claim clearance times (cont.)**

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37. On average, between 2011/12 and 2015/16 (**Figure 10**):

- First disablement pensions were cleared within seven calendar months (138 working days)
- Second/subsequent disablement claims were cleared within six calendar months (119 working days).
- Widow(er)s claims were cleared within one calendar month (15 working days). Widow(er)s claims take less time to clear under the WPS as there is no requirement for the claimant to be assessed.
- Appeals were cleared within seven<sup>p</sup> calendar months (132<sup>p</sup> working days). Please note, the MOD completed the first stage of appeal processing within two calendar months (35<sup>p</sup> working days), before the appeal was passed on to the PAT. Figures are marked provisional whilst underlying data used to calculate appeal clearance times are quality assured. Please see Background Quality Report for more details.

38. The increase in the average clearance times for first disablement pension claims and second/subsequent disablement pension claims seen between 2011/12 and 2013/14, **Figure 10**, is likely to be due to the reduction in the number of cleared claims between 2008/09 and 2012/13; the increase in the number of registered claims in 2013/14 and the increase in resource to clear the back log of claims in 2013/14 (see paragraph 27 for further details).



## Results: Financial amounts paid out under the WPS

39. In 2015/16 £794.8 million was paid out in the form of pensions and supplementary allowances under the WPS. **Table 23** in **Annex A** provides information on the financial amounts that have been paid out under the WPS each financial year between 2010/11 and 2015/16.

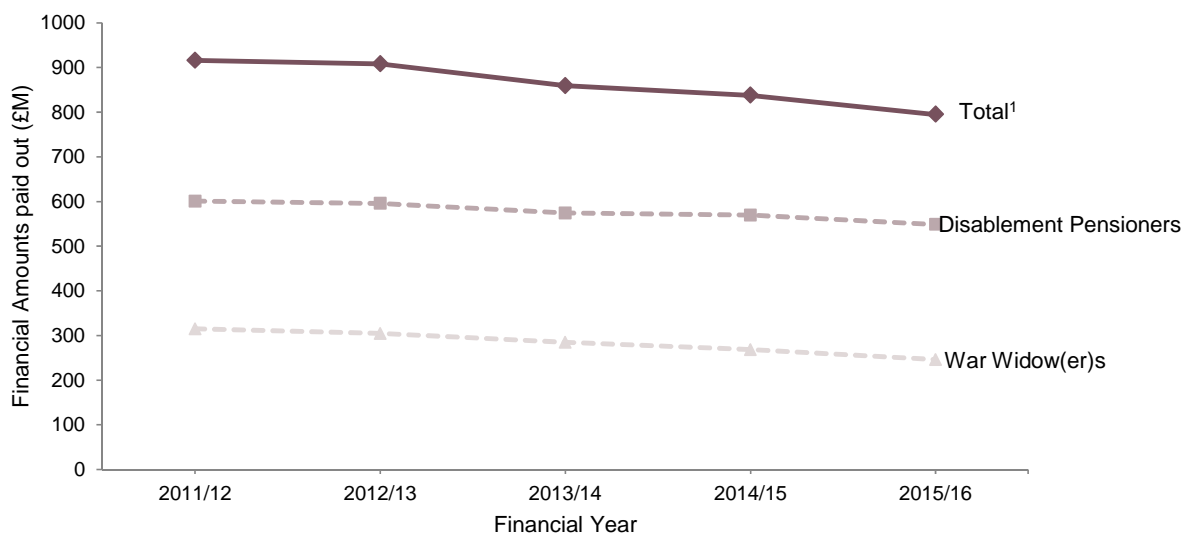
40. Of the £794.8 million paid out under the WPS:

- £548.7 million was paid out to disablement pensioners with the average weekly amount received to each person being £87.85.
- £246 million was paid out to war widow(er)s with the average weekly amount received to each person being £243.

41. The average weekly amount received for disablement pensioners was lower compared to war widow(er)s pensioners. The majority of pensions in payment to disablement pensioners were at the lower disablement percentages and therefore equate to lower financial amounts compared to the standard war widow(er)s' pension rate.

42. In 2015/16 there was a 5% decrease in the amounts paid out under the WPS from the previous year. Over time the amounts paid out have decreased year on year due to the decreasing numbers in receipt of a war pension and supplementary allowances (**Figure 11**).

**Figure 11: Financial amounts paid out under the War Pensions Scheme, by claim type and financial year, £M<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> In 2012/13 there was an audit adjustment by Veterans UK of £7M, however the breakdown of this by disablement pensioner and war widow(er) is unknown. The figure has been included in the total amount but not in the breakdowns.

43. The average weekly supplementary payments to war widow(er)s (£108.94) was considerably higher than for disablement pensioners (£26.28) as the war widow(er)s' payment was related to a death of a spouse/eligible partner caused by Service (**Annex A, table 24**).

44. Further information on claim outcomes under the WPS are presented in **Tables 23 & 24** in **Annex A**.

## Results: Methodology

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**This section provides a brief summary of the methodology and data sources; more detailed information is available in the background quality report for this bulletin.**

### *Data Sources*

45. Figures presented in this bulletin were based on data stored on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS). Defence Statistics receive quarterly data extracts from the WPCS which were used to compile the figures provided. Veterans UK were responsible for ensuring the quality of WPCS data supplied to Defence Statistics.
46. Defence Statistics receive yearly data from the Veterans UK finance team which are used to report on financial information paid out under the WPS.

### *Data Coverage*

47. The data presented include all regular and reserve ex-Service personnel and dependants who have claimed for compensation under the War Pension Scheme between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2016.
48. A claimant was eligible for consideration under the WPS where disablement or death has occurred as a result of Service in HM Forces, prior to 6 April 2005. In addition, awards may also be made where disablement or death has occurred as a result of:
  - War-time Service in the Naval Auxiliary Service, or the Mercantile Marine
  - Service in the Polish Forces under British command during World War Two
  - A civilian or a member of a civil defence organisation was the direct result of an injury sustained as a result of enemy action in World War Two.
49. Claims for injuries/illnesses as a result of Service cannot be made until an individual has left the Services.
50. Illnesses and injuries awarded under the WPS are recorded in both a free-text field and as a medical diagnosis code. To produce the figures for War pensions in payment for mental health conditions (see paragraph 11), records with a medical diagnosis code 4000 to 4008, indicating a mental disorder, were identified. The free-text field was also searched for terms such as 'PTSD', 'psych', 'phobia', 'depression', 'adjustment', 'anxiety', 'panic', 'dysthymic', 'schizophrenia', 'mood disorder', 'substance abuse' and 'mania', as well as any probable misspellings or alternate spellings. As conditions are sometimes spelt incorrectly it was possible that some records with reference to mental health have not been identified. Therefore the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

## Results: Methodology (cont.)

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### *Calculation of claim clearance times*

51. Information on WPS claim clearance times has been presented as a median average with an inter-quartile range, rather than a mean average and standard deviation as these statistics were affected less by outliers. An outlier is an observation within a dataset that appears to be inconsistent with the remainder of the dataset.
- The median is the value in the centre of the data set when they are arranged from smallest to largest.
  - A quartile is any of three values (first/lower quartile, second quartile (median), third/upper quartile) that divides the sorted (from smallest value to largest value) dataset into four equal parts. The lower quartile (LQ) is the value that at which 25% of the values in the dataset will be below. The upper quartile (UQ) is the value that at which 75% of the values in the dataset will be below.
  - The inter-quartile range (IQR) is the range in which the middle 50% of the data points fall (i.e. the distance between the lower and upper quartile). The longer the inter-quartile range the wider the spread of data.
52. Further information on the techniques used to investigate clearance times can be found in the accompanying Background Quality Report and in **Annex A**.

## Glossary

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<b>1939 Onwards</b>	Disabled due to service from 3 September 1939 to 5 April 2005.
<b>Adult Dependant</b>	Adult relatives, i.e. sister, brother, aunt or uncle etc, for whom the service person was financially responsible.
<b>Age Allowance</b>	This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner (man or woman) who is aged 65 or over and whose disablement is assessed at 40% or more. For war widow(er)s equivalent see Elderly Widow(er)s Age Allowance.
<b>Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation (ALSO)</b>	This may be paid if a pensioner's earning capacity is reduced because their pensioned disablement permanently prevents them following their regular occupation. To gain entitlement new claimants must be under age 65, with a service disablement of at least 40% when they make their claim. This allowance plus their basic War Disablement Pension cannot exceed the 100% disablement pension rate.
<b>Appeal</b>	If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of any of their claims they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.
<b>Armed 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>Awarded 0%</b>	The doctor may decide from the medical evidence that although the condition was caused by Service or wartime experience, if it is not causing the person a problem at the moment then they will be awarded an assessment of nil.
<b>Child Allowance Only</b>	There is a Child Allowance Only Pension in payment, i.e. no award has been given to war widow(er)s Pension but her child has been awarded.
<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 or appeal
<b>Clothing Allowance (CLOT)</b>	This may be paid if the disablement causes exceptional wear and tear on clothing.
<b>Comforts Allowance (COMF)</b>	This may be paid to a severely disabled pensioner who is receiving Constant Attendance Allowance or Unemployability Supplement or both. It is intended to help with the extra expenses associated with severe disablement.
<b>Conditional list review</b>	These cases arise because DBS Medical Services have previously made an interim assessment for a limited period because the level of disablement was likely to change. A review date is calculated so that disablement can be reassessed before the given period expires.

<b>Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA)</b>	This may be paid to a pensioner who needs regular personal attention because of their pensioned disablement and that disablement is assessed at 80% or more. It is payable at one of four rates. The rate varies according to the level of attendance they need.
<b>Current invaliding claims</b>	Current invaliding claims and first claims to pension cover the initial claim that an individual makes for an injury/illness caused by Service prior to 6 April 2005.
<b>Departmental review</b>	A review can be carried out to reassess a case when a condition has been rejected and an award for a war pension has not been made.
<b>Deterioration claims</b>	An application can be made to increase a war pension if an accepted condition has worsened, or, if another condition has made the accepted war pension disablement worse.
<b>Disablement pensioner</b>	Ex-UK Armed Forces Service personnel with an injury/illness as a result of Service with a disablement percentage of 20% or above.
<b>Disablement Percentage</b>	First and second/subsequent claims are assessed by a doctor, and then he/she gives a percentage of up to 100% to dependent on how disabled the person is.
<b>Elderly Widow(er)'s Age Allowance</b>	A war widow(er) may receive an additional allowance at age 65 which is increased at age 70 and again at age 80.
<b>Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance (ESDA)</b>	This may be paid to a pensioner who is receiving Constant Attendance Allowance at one of the two highest rates, or would be receiving it if they were not in hospital.
<b>Funeral Expenses (FE)</b>	Funeral expenses may be paid if the pensioner died as a result of his service disablement, or died while having treatment for that disablement in hospital, or was entitled to Constant Attendance Allowance, or was at the time of his death 80% or more disabled and receiving Unemployability Supplement.
<b>Further condition claims</b>	Disablement pensioners who already have entitlement to a war disablement pension can claim for an additional medical condition.
<b>Gratuity Payment</b>	If a disablement is assessed at less than 20%, personnel are paid a lump sum called a gratuity. The amount depends on the extent of the disablement and how long the person is likely to be disabled.
<b>Inter-quartile range</b>	The inter-quartile range is the largest minus the smallest number in the middle 50% of the data.
<b>Inter War</b>	Disabled due to service between 1 October 1921 and 2 September 1939.

<b>Invalidity Allowance (IVA)</b>	This may be paid to a pensioner receiving Unemployability Supplement and under the age of 60. The rate varies according to the age at which unemployability began.
<b>Median average</b>	The median of a finite list of numbers can be found by arranging all the values from lowest to highest and picking the middle value.
<b>Modified Over Age Infirm Allowance (MOIA)</b>	Compensation/Allowances (including that paid to children living in the Irish Republic or Overseas) due to infirmity are taken into account when calculating an award of <b>Over Age Infirm Allowance (OAIA)</b> .
<b>Modified Unemployability Supplement (MSUP)</b>	The basic conditions of eligibility to UNSUPP for a pensioner living abroad (including the Irish Republic and the Channel Islands) are the same as for the UK, however, if they become eligible for Retirement Pension or other benefit payable out of the public funds of that country then UNSUPP may be adjusted with that benefit, or paid at a nominal rate to allow continued payment of comforts allowance.
<b>Over Age Infirm Allowance (OAIA)</b>	Over Age Infirm Allowance for children of deceased pensioners unable to support themselves dates back to the 1914 War. The allowance can be awarded or continued beyond the normal age limits on the grounds of infirmity if the ailment is of a nature which is likely to prevent the person from earning a living either permanently or for a prolonged period and infirmity commenced before age 16. The person is still referred to as a child even though they may be quite elderly.
<b>Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT)</b>	The PAT hears appeals from all claimants who have disagreed with the decision made by Veterans UK on the outcome of their claim.
<b>Registered Claim</b>	A claim is classed as registered when Veterans UK begin a workflow on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS) for a claim.
<b>Rent Allowance (RENT)</b>	A war widow(er) with a child or children may be eligible for a rent allowance.
<b>Restored Widow(er)s</b>	A war widow(er) may have their pension restored under certain circumstances such as; they become widowed again; their marriage/civil partnership ends or they stop living with their partner.
<b>Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance (SDOA)</b>	This may be paid to a pensioner who is entitled to Constant Attendance Allowance at one of the two highest rates, but who still normally has a gainful occupation.
<b>Survival Analysis</b>	Survival Analysis analyses the time duration until the event we are interested in occurs. In this reports case that is when the claim has been cleared.

<b>Supplementary Allowance</b>	Everyone in receipt of a War Pension can claim for extra allowances in certain circumstances.
<b>Temporary Allowance for Widow(er)s (TAW)</b>	This may be paid to a widow(er), irrespective of the cause of their spouse's death, if he/she were awarded Unemployability Supplement or Constant Attendance Allowance or both. The allowance is approximately equal to the disablement pension and allowances paid to their late spouse. It is paid for the first 26 weeks of widowhood.
<b>Treatment Allowance (TA)</b>	This is equivalent to a disablement pension paid at the 100% rate. It may be paid instead of a disablement pension to a pensioner who incurs a loss of earnings as a result of receiving treatment for their pensioned disablement.
<b>Unemployability Supplement (UNSUPP)</b>	This may be paid to a pensioner who is unemployable or virtually unemployable as a result of the war pensioned disablement. To gain entitlement, new claimants must be under age 65, with a pensioned disablement assessed at 60% or more when they make their claim. Additional allowances may be paid for a spouse and a child or children.
<b>Unmarried Dependant</b>	Partner who lived with the ex-service person for at least 6 months before his enlistment, was maintained by him and who has borne his child.
<b>Veterans UK</b>	Veterans UK administer the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.
<b>War Orphan</b>	Child of deceased service person who has no surviving mother or father. Child whose mother was divorced from a service person at the time of death. Child who is not in the care of the surviving parent.
<b>War Parent</b>	Parent of the deceased service person.
<b>War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS)</b>	This is intended to help with the mobility costs of a pensioner who is unable to walk, or virtually unable to walk. New claimants must have a service disablement of at least 40%. It is paid to double amputees and to those pensioners who need help getting about because they are both deaf and blind as a result of their pensioned disablement.
<b>War Pension Scheme (WPS)</b>	No fault compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve force. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death caused or made worse by service from WW1 in 1914 to 5 April 2005. Ex-Service personnel are only eligible to claim once they've left the services.
<b>War widow(er)</b>	Spouse of ex-Service person whose death was whilst in Service or related to a disablement due to Service prior to 6 April 2005.

**War widow(er)'s  
Special Allowance**

This is a Supplementary Pension payable to "pre-1973 war widow(er)s" (the widow(er)s of Service personnel who died or left the services before 31<sup>st</sup> March 1973, and who did not benefit from the improvements made from that date to the MOD's Armed Forces Pension Scheme).

**Working days**

Any day in which legal business can be conducted. In this report a working day is any day apart from a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday.



## Further Information

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### Symbols

~	Suppressed (greater than zero, fewer than 3)
-	Denotes '0'
r	Revised
p	Provisional
Q1	1 April to 30 June
Q2	1 July to 30 September
Q3	1 October to 31 December
Q4	1 January to 31 March

### Disclosure Control

In line with JSP 200 (April 2016), different methods have been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. The majority of tables have used the suppression methodology: numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals. Where a higher risk of disclosure was identified due to a high proportion of numbers being suppressed the rounding or grouping methodology has been applied. For the rounding methodology all numbers have been rounded to the nearest five with figures fewer than five being presented as '~'. For the grouping methodology relevant categories have been grouped. If a disclosure control method has been applied to a table, the method is stated in the footnotes. For further information on statistical disclosure control see Background Quality Report.

### Revisions

The figures reported for each quarter are based on the War Pensions Computer System data extract as at the end of each quarter, and will be correct as at the time each extract was taken. Therefore any update to claim information made on the WPCS after each quarterly snapshot will not be reflected in the report.

Historic data will only be revised if errors are found in the data processing or statistical methods used during their publication. If an error was found all historic data would be revised, based on the quarterly snapshots of data, and Defence Statistics would highlight the error and the impact on the numbers presented.

### Scheme information

Further information on the AFPS, WPS and AFCS can be found on the Gov.UK website:

AFPS: <https://www.gov.uk/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans>

WPS and AFCS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation>

### Contact Us

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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>

## Further Information (cont.)

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