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Ref: FOI2016/01529



2 March 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2016 requesting the following information:

"I would like to know specifically the number of Fijian soldiers who have served or are serving in the British Army, who have received compensation for PTSD as a result of their active service. I would also like to know the number of Fijian soldiers who have applied for compensation for PTSD."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with Defence Statistics' rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed and all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest five 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.

Between 6 April 2005 and 30 September 2015, a minimum of **15** serving/ex-Serving UK Army personnel, with a nationality of Fijian, claimed for compensation for PTSD under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). Of these individuals, **10** were subsequently awarded compensation for a mental disorder.

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

Nationality data are as reported on the Joint Personnel Administration system. These figures should be treated as a minimum as they relate only to those with a known nationality.

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 3 December 2015.

Conditions are recorded on the AFCS dataset in two free-text fields containing the condition that was claimed for and the condition that was awarded. Awarded conditions are recorded based on the AFCS tariff of injury table condition groupings. To identify claims for PTSD, we used the claimed condition field to search for 'ptsd', 'post traumatic stress disorder' and other common misspellings. Awarded conditions were identified using the tariff description field. A search was carried out for 'mental' to identify any conditions awarded under the tariff of injury table for mental health disorders. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that some claims for PTSD have not been identified, and therefore the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum. Further information on the AFCS tariff of injury tables can be found at: <http://www.infolaw.co.uk/mod/docs/AFCS-2014-04-07.pdf>

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

Armed Forces personnel data on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System was used to identify individuals with a nationality of Fijian. JPA holds personnel data from April 2007 onwards and therefore Fijian personnel who claimed under the AFCS for PTSD and exited the Services prior to April 2007 would not have been identified. Therefore the figures provided should be treated as a minimum.

Please note personnel may also claim under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) which 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. Summary statistics covering the War Pension Scheme are presented in an annual Official Statistic: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-statistics-index>)

The information within this response only covers compensation awarded under the AFCS.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering medical discharges and Armed Forces Compensation statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)