

Ref: FOI2015/01473

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 7 February 2015 requesting the following information:

"Could the MoD/Veterans UK please provide me with information/statistics from 2005-2015 regarding the illnesses and disorders listed:

- *ICD F32 - Depressive Episode*
- *ICD F33 - Recurrent Depressive Disorder*
- *ICD F34.1 - Dysthymia*
- *ICD F10 - Mental and behavioural disorder due to use of alcohol*
- *ICD F40 - Phobic anxiety disorders*
- *ICD F51 - Nonorganic Sleep Disorders*
- *ICD F52 - Lack or loss of sexual desire*
- *ICD F60.6 - Anxious (avoidant) personality disorder*
- *ICD F62.1 - Enduring personality change after psychiatric illness*

I would like to know how many Veterans are in receipt of war pensions under the SPO and compensation from the AFCS for each illness/disorder.

I would also like to know what percentages of assessments are paid under both schemes (SPO and AFCS)."

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) and section 44 (Prohibitions on Disclosure) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to the information presented in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with the 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.

Section 44(1)(a) has been applied as the disclosure of some of the information is prohibited by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Defence Statistics release annual updates on UK Armed Forces Compensation and War Pensions Scheme Annual Statistics as Official Statistic publications. In accordance with the Code of Practice for the release of National and Official Statistics, as set out in the 2007 Act, we are unable to provide the data for 2014/15 prior to the next statistical release, 4 June 2015. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Table 1 shows the number of disablement pensioners in receipt of a war pension under the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) for each of the illnesses/disorders listed above as at 31 March 2014 (the latest date for which WPS data are available).

Table 1: Disablement Pensions in payment under the WPS by illness/disorder and disablement percentage as at March 2014, numbers

Illness/Disorder	Disablement Percentage									
	All	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Depressive Episode	3,545	765	690	640	415	395	230	175	60	170
Recurrent Depressive Disorder	170	40	40	30	15	15	10	10	0	~
Dysthymia	400	65	80	70	45	50	25	30	5	25
Mental and Behavioural Disorder due to use of Alcohol	30	~	5	~	5	~	~	~	~	5
Phobic Anxiety Disorders	240	70	50	50	20	15	10	5	~	10
Nonorganic Sleep Disorders	75	15	15	15	10	5	~	~	~	~
Lack or Loss of Sexual Desires	~	~	0	0	0	~	0	0	0	~
Anxious (Avoidant) Personality Disorder	250	55	55	50	25	30	10	10	5	10
Enduring Personality Change After Psychiatric Illness	70	10	15	15	10	10	~	5	~	~

Source: War Pensions Computer System (WPCS)

Table 2 shows the number of personnel awarded compensation under the AFCS for each of the illnesses/ disorders listed above as at 30 September 2014 (the latest date for which AFCS data are available).

Table 2: Lump sum payments awarded under the AFCS, by illness/disorder and tariff as at 31 September 2014, numbers

Illness/Disorder	Tariff Level															
	All	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Depressive Episode	235	0	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	5	5	10	95	100	10	0
Recurrent Depressive Disorder	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	~	~	~	0
Dysthymia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mental and Behavioural Disorder due to use of Alcohol	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	~	0	0
Phobic Anxiety Disorders	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	~	~	0
Nonorganic Sleep Disorders	20	0	0	0	0	~	0	0	~	~	0	~	~	5	~	0
Lack or Loss of Sexual Desires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anxious (Avoidant) Personality Disorder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enduring Personality Change After Psychiatric Illness	~	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	~	0	0

Source: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS)

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and assistance) you may find it useful to note the following:

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 that's due to be released on 4 June 2015 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/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-statistics-index>

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

To identify the conditions awarded for a war pension, we used the 'meddicon' field which is a free text condition field. This was used to search for several words such as 'depression', 'depressive', 'dysthymia', 'alcohol', 'phobic', 'non-organic', 'sleep', 'sexual', 'personality', 'personality change' and a range of common misspellings. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that some records with reference to the words described have not been identified, and therefore the figures supplied should be used as an estimate only.

Please note the disablement percentage is the total percentage for all awarded conditions that a pensioner is in receipt of a pension for, therefore the figures may not be solely for the illness/disorder presented in Table 1.

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 that's due to be released on 4 June 2015 provides summary statistics on claims and awards made under the Armed Forces and Reserve 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>

Awarded conditions are recorded on the AFCS data in a free-text field containing the tariff of injury table condition groupings. To identify claims awarded for mental disorders, we used the 'claimed' field to search for several words such as 'depression', 'depressive', 'dysthymia', 'alcohol', 'phobic', 'non-organic', 'sleep', 'sexual', 'personality', 'personality change' and a range of common misspellings. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that some records with reference to mental health have not been identified, and therefore the figures supplied should be used as an estimate only.

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 and marked ~. 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 on the WPS and AFCS 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, <http://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)