



Ministry  
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 09 January 2017 requesting the following information:

- *How many ex-military personnel have been awarded for 'mental health-related issues' under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme between 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2016?*
- *Please can the information be provided by financial year of award, region of claimant and (if possible) gender of claimant?*

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 JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidelines. Numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked ~ in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. 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. 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.

There were **1,879** UK Armed Forces veterans have been awarded compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for mental disorders between 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2016.

**Table 1** provides the numbers of UK Armed Forces veterans awarded compensation under the AFCS for mental disorders by region, between 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2016.

**Table 1: UK Armed Forces veterans<sup>1</sup> awarded<sup>2</sup> under the AFCS for mental disorders, by region<sup>3</sup> and financial year, numbers<sup>4</sup> 2006/07 to 2016/17<sup>5</sup>**

	All Years <sup>5</sup>	2006/07 <sup>6</sup>	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Number of Armed Forces veterans</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>125</b>
North East	77	0	3	5	7	8	8	10	13	13	8	3
North West	216	~	~	6	16	18	20	20	59	27	31	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	167	0	5	7	4	13	13	24	34	38	19	11
East Midlands	135	0	5	9	8	19	10	17	23	20	18	6
West Midlands	125	0	4	8	5	9	9	17	20	26	20	7
East	145	0	0	4	9	9	13	19	23	31	31	6
London	67	0	~	~	3	8	7	4	16	15	7	4
South East	264	~	12	~	13	16	23	31	57	36	50	14
South West	244	~	~	14	11	22	18	18	32	48	46	25
Wales	121	0	4	4	8	10	12	15	15	21	24	8
Scotland	141	0	~	~	5	13	13	13	30	18	28	14
N.Ireland	57	~	~	6	~	6	~	7	12	8	8	~
Other UK <sup>8</sup>	~	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	~	0
UK Unknown <sup>9</sup>	53	~	0	~	~	~	5	~	9	11	16	5
Overseas	~	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	~	~	~	4
Not Known <sup>10</sup>	53	~	5	3	5	~	~	4	9	~	9	~

Source: Compensation and Pension System; War Pension Computer System

<sup>1</sup> Personnel may have claimed whilst in service.

<sup>2</sup> Initial award - see Section 16

<sup>3</sup> Latest recorded location information

<sup>4</sup> Individuals may have been awarded compensation under AFCS for mental disorders in multiple financial years therefore; the sum of financial years may not equal the total.

<sup>5</sup> 30 September 2006 to 30 September 2016

<sup>6</sup> 30 September 2006 to 31 March 2007

<sup>7</sup> 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016

<sup>8</sup> Includes Channel Islands and Isle of Man

<sup>9</sup> Includes pension and compensation recipients that have a region of UK but do not have a valid postcode recorded

<sup>10</sup> Includes pension and compensation recipients with no location recorded

~ In line with the JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, figures fewer than three have been suppressed

**Table 2** provides the numbers of UK Armed Forces veterans awarded compensation under the AFCS for mental disorders by gender, between 30 September 2006 and 30 September 2016.

**Table 2: UK Armed Forces veterans<sup>1</sup> awarded<sup>2</sup> under the AFCS for mental disorders, by gender and financial year, numbers<sup>3</sup> 2006/07 to 2016/17<sup>4</sup>**

	All Years <sup>4</sup>	2006/07 <sup>5</sup>	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Number of Armed Forces veterans</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>125</b>
Male	1,777	~	~	79	94	151	145	191	344	307	298	115
Female	102	~	~	6	5	6	11	12	12	14	20	10

Source: Compensation and Pension System; War Pension Computer System

<sup>1</sup> Personnel may have claimed whilst in service.

<sup>2</sup> Initial award - see Section 16

<sup>3</sup> Individuals may have been awarded compensation under AFCS for mental disorders in multiple financial years therefore; the sum of financial years may not equal the total.

<sup>4</sup> 30 September 2006 to 30 September 2016

<sup>5</sup> 30 September 2006 to 31 March 2007

<sup>6</sup> 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016

~ In line with the JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, figures fewer than three have been suppressed

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

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. Defence Statistics publish an annual National Statistic (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>) on claims and awards under the WPS and a bi-annual National Statistic (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics->

[index](#)) on claims and awards under the AFCS.

AFCS data is sourced from the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) which is administrated and managed by DBS Veterans UK.

Awarded conditions for mental disorders were identified on CAPS using the free-text tariff descriptors under the tariff of injury table.

Please note the information presented is for the initial outcome given for an injury/illness claim. Awards following reconsiderations and appeals have been excluded.

CAPS and the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS) have been combined to provide the latest region information for each individual. The WPCS, which is administrated and managed by DBS Veterans UK, provides information on recipients of an on-going pension under the WPS. Defence Statistics publish an annual Official Statistic (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>) on the location of Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients.

The rise in awards for mental health is likely to be due to a combination of the raised awareness of the AFCS and the many mental health campaigns which MOD runs to encourage those that need help to come forward and get the assistance they deserve.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications on the AFCS and location of Armed Forces pension and compensation recipient and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)

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

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

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)