

# **Background Quality Report**

## **War Pension Scheme Annual Statistics –**

### **1 April 2006 to 31 March 2017**

The purpose of a background quality report is to inform users of the statistics about the quality of the data used to produce the publication, and any statistics derived from that data. It also discusses existing uses of the statistics and user requirements.

This assessment relates to the annual 'War Pension Scheme' statistics published by Defence Statistics.

## **1. Introduction**

1. This annual National Statistic provides summary statistics on claims and awards, made under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). The Results in this report are presented within six sections:
  - Section 1: Numbers of registered and cleared claims under the WPS- This section provides the overall numbers of claims registered and cleared under the scheme, broken down by claim type, financial year and quarter. This is provided to show the volume of claims that are dealt with under the scheme, the success rates associated with each type of claim and the key trends over time. This section also includes information on appeals registered and cleared.
  - Section 2: WPS claim clearance times- This is the first time that clearance times have been presented in this report. The average (median) clearance times are presented for all cleared claims, by claim type and financial year. This information is presented in order to show the average time that claimants have waited for their claim to be cleared.
  - Section 3: Outcomes of claims cleared under the WPS- 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 claims, war widow(er)s' claims, second/subsequent claims and appeals.
  - Section 4: Recipients of War Pensions under the WPS- This section gives further details (e.g. by type of pension, degree of disablement, age-group) for all ex-Service personnel who are currently in receipt of a War Pension where death or disablement occurred as a result of service.
  - Section 5: Recipients of supplementary allowances under the WPS- This section gives information on the number of people who are in receipt of ongoing supplementary allowances by type of allowance and type of pension.
  - Section 6: WPS expenditure- Total amounts paid out under the War Pension Scheme by financial year.
2. These statistics present trends over time since between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2017, with some further detail presented for the latest five quarters.

3. Ad-hoc interrogation of the data used to compile these statistics is regularly undertaken by Defence Statistics in order to answer Freedom of Information requests, Parliamentary questions and internal queries from within the Ministry of Defence.
4. The latest statistics are published as National Statistics, adhering to the [UK Statistics Authority \(UKSA\)](#)<sup>1</sup> protocols on [pre-release access](#)<sup>2</sup>. The UKSA has designated these statistics as [National Statistics](#)<sup>3</sup>, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice](#)<sup>4</sup> for Official Statistics. Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.
5. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
  - meet identified user needs;
  - are well explained and readily accessible;
  - are produced according to sound methods; and
  - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.
6. These statistics were released on a quarterly basis between 2001 and 2010; following consultations with users in 2010 and 2011 this statistical bulletin was reduced to bi-annual and annual releases respectively. Data are reported as at the end of the financial year, with the annual report published in June of each year.
7. Defence Statistics also publishes annual statistics on the [Location of Armed Forces Pension and Compensation recipients](#)<sup>5</sup>, presenting the location of Disablement pensioners and widow(er)s in receipt of a pension under the WPS as at the end of the financial year. The latest statistics were published in August 2015 on the Gov.UK website.

#### **Scheme information and definitions**

8. This section provides a summary of the WPS. Full scheme information, including advice on how to submit a claim for compensation under the WPS can be found on the [Gov.uk website](#)<sup>6</sup>
9. The WPS is managed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with all compensation claims administered by Defence Business Services (DBS) [Veterans UK](#)<sup>7</sup>. The 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.
10. The compensation arrangements provided by the WPS and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme were replaced on 6 April 2005 by the [Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme \(AFCS\)](#)<sup>8</sup> to pay compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service that occurred on or after that date. Defence Statistics also publishes [bi-annual AFCS statistics](#)<sup>9</sup> on the Gov.UK website.

#### *First disablement and second/subsequent claims and awards*

11. A former serving member of the UK Armed Forces may submit a **first disablement claim** for compensation under the WPS for injury/illness caused by Service. The claim will only be considered under the WPS if the claimant has left Service and the claimed injury/ onset of illness occurred prior to 6 April 2005 (post 6 April 2005 claims are passed to the AFCS for consideration). There is no time limit to claim. The following cohorts are also eligible to claim for compensation under the WPS:
  - War-time Service in the Naval Auxiliary Service, or the Mercantile Marine
  - Service in the Polish Forces under British command during World War Two
  - While serving in the Merchant Navy, the Coastguard Service, the Nursing Service and the Home Guard
  - While serving in the Polish forces under British command during the Second World War

- While serving as a civil defence volunteer
  - As a prisoner of war
  - As a result of enemy action in the Second World War (as a civilian)
12. An initial decision is made by DBS Veterans UK on whether to award each claim. Awarded claims are those considered to be Service-attributable, following advice from a medical advisor. Medical advisors assess the level of each individual's disablement in comparison to that of an able-bodied person of the same age and gender. Disablement percentages awarded are between 0% and 100%:
- Those awarded at a disablement percentage of 20% - 100% are paid an ongoing war pension, the percentage awarded reflected in the amount paid.
  - Those awarded at a disablement percentage of 1% - 19% are paid a one off gratuity (lump sum) payment.
  - Cases where the claimed injury/illness is determined to be Service-attributable but not severe enough to impact on daily life are awarded a nil (0%) award.
13. Successful claimants are eligible to register for compensation for second/subsequent claims at a later date following their initial award. This includes the worsening of existing conditions that have already been assessed under the scheme, and/or the onset of new conditions since their previous award. New conditions will only be considered under the WPS if their onset was prior to 6 April 2005. New conditions deemed to have occurred on or after 6 April 2005 are passed to the AFCS for consideration. There is no time limit to claim for second/subsequent conditions.
14. Successful second/subsequent claims will result in the claimant either receiving an additional lump sum payment (if the disablement percentage is between 1% and 19%), or an increase in the amount received (if the disablement percentage is 20% or above).
15. Full details of the 2017 rates for disablement pensioner war pension and gratuity amounts can be found on the [Gov.UK website](#)<sup>10</sup>.

#### *War widow(er)s' claims and awards*

16. Where death is caused by Service prior to 6 April 2005, the WPS provides an income stream known as a war widow(er)s pension, payable to the spouse, civil partner or adult dependant. Payments are also paid to eligible children. There is no time limit to claim. Claims for a war widow(er)s' pension will be considered if the applicant's husband, wife or civil partner:
- Died as result of their service in HM Armed Forces before 6 April 2005
  - Was a civil Defence volunteer or a civilian and their death was a result of the 1939 to 1945 war
  - Was a merchant seaman, a member of the naval auxiliary services, or a coastguard and their death was a result of an injury or disease they got during a war or because they were a prisoner of war
  - Died as a result of their service as a member of the Polish Forces under British command during the 1939 to 1945 war, or in the Polish Resettlement Forces
  - Was getting a War Pensions Constant Attendance Allowance at the time of their death, or would have been had they not been in hospital
  - Was getting a War Disablement Pension at the 80% rate or higher and was getting Unemployability Supplement
17. War widow(er)s' claims are either awarded or rejected. The amount of compensation awarded to successful claims is determined by the rank of the spouse, age of the widow(er) and whether there were children in the family at time of death. Full details of the 2017 rates for the war widow(er)s pension can be found on the [Gov.UK website](#)<sup>10</sup>.

### *Supplementary Allowance claims and awards*

18. Disablement pensioners and War widow(er)s in receipt of a war pension may also apply for additional financial support to help with the extra costs of a long-term condition or disability. There is a wide range of supplementary allowances. A list of allowances and their definitions can be found under 'Supplementary Allowances' in the Glossary section of the Statistical Bulletin.
19. Further details on supplementary allowance rates of payment can be found on the [Gov.UK website](#)<sup>10</sup>.

### *Appeals*

20. If a claimant is unhappy with the outcome of their claim they can appeal to an independent tribunal. Tribunals are held by the [HM Courts and Tribunals Service](#)<sup>11</sup> (England, Scotland and Wales) and the [Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service](#)<sup>12</sup> and totally independent from DBS Veterans UK. Tribunal decisions are legally binding on both the appellant and Veterans UK. The Tribunal is bound by the rules of the scheme.

### *Awards for mesothelioma*

21. The War Pensions Scheme is open to veterans diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos during their military service prior to 6 April 2005. Prior to 16 December 2015 the WPS provided a war disablement pension and supplementary allowances, and a war widow(er)'s Pension for an eligible partner paid for life.
22. Since 16 December 2015, veterans diagnosed with Service-attributable mesothelioma have had the choice between a one-off, tax-free lump sum of £140,000 and regular, smaller payments in the form of an ongoing disablement pension. Disablement pensioners already in receipt of an ongoing pension on 16 December 2015 were entitled to receive a lump sum payment of £140,000 less any monies already received.
23. Further details on the policy change can be found on [Gov.uk website](#)<sup>13</sup>.

## **Methodology**

### *Data Sources*

24. Most of the information presented within this Statistical Bulletin is sourced from data held on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS) which is managed by Veterans UK, responsible for administering the scheme.
25. Information on recipients of a lump sum award for Service-attributable mesothelioma was supplied by DBS Veterans UK in a separate Excel spreadsheet.

### *Data extraction and manipulation Process*

26. Defence Statistics receives raw data extracts from the WPCS from DBS Veterans UK. Basic consistency checks are carried out on raw data. For example, the numbers of records received is compared to the previous extract to ensure the total number is as expected. If any data quality issues are evident following receipt of data, Defence Statistics liaise with Veterans UK to determine whether any changes are required.
27. The WPCS data are processed through a series of automated programming in a MYSQL database that produces a series of summary tables on WPS claims and awards that are then used to populate final tables within the report. Manual checks are conducted on the final tables to ensure that the automated process has worked successfully

28. Further validation checks are carried out after the data have been processed to ensure all processes and queries have run correctly and the final numbers are an accurate reflection of data received from DBS Veterans UK. Manual checks are then carried out on the final report to ensure figures quoted in the commentary reflect those in the tables, and the numbers sum to the totals provided. If any data quality issues are evident following receipt of data, Defence Statistics liaise with DBS Veterans UK to determine whether any investigation is required.

#### *Calculating Clearance Times*

29. Clearance times calculations are conducted separately to the automated process. Cleared WPS claims (claims with a 'cleared date' recorded on the WPCS) were identified, and working days (to exclude weekends and bank holidays) between each claim being registered and cleared were calculated. Due to variations in the time taken to process each type of WPS claim, average clearance times were calculated separately for each claim type: first disablement claims, second/subsequent disablement claims, widow(er)s' claims and appeals.

30. The average clearance times for appeals were produced by calculating the number of working days (to exclude weekends and bank holidays) between the date of claim registration and the final date that appeals were cleared by the Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT). This provides an indication of the total length of time that a claimant may wait for a final decision to be reached following the submission of an appeal. However, the commentary in the main Statistical Bulletin also presents the average length of time Veterans UK take to complete their processing of appeals prior to appeals going to the PAT.

31. 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 are 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.

32. The median has been presented in these statistics as it better reflects the average typical experience for the individual making a claim. The accompanying Excel tables to this publication also present the mean average. The mean average has also been presented as it is used internally as a measure of performance on the management of cases.

33. Please note that the overall number of claims included in the calculations for average clearance times differs to the number of cleared claims reported in Tables 2 and 13. This is due to cases with incomplete registered/cleared dates being excluded from the analysis.

#### *Determining claimants awarded for specific injury/illness*

34. Electronic WPS records do not capture the injuries/illnesses awarded under the WPS. Claimants' contentions regarding the injury/illness which they are claiming for are captured but they may have been awarded for a different but related problem. For example, a claimant who stated that they have PTSD on their claim form may have actually been awarded compensation for an adjustment disorder.

35. The MOD only holds information centrally on the conditions claimed for; not the conditions for which they received a final award. Additionally, claimed condition information is held in free-text format and therefore any searches conducted are reliant on correctly spelt specific terms. Therefore it is not possible to reliably report on awarded conditions.

36. However, due to continued external interest in the numbers of disablement pensioners awarded for mental disorders, specifically post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), estimates of awards for these conditions have been produced for purposes of this National Statistic. It is important to note that these figures should be treated with caution due to the unreliability of the underlying data.

## **2. Relevance**

### **Coverage**

37. The data presented include all ex-regular and reservist UK Service personnel who have claimed for compensation for injury/illness under the WPS between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2017. The data also include all individuals who have claimed for compensation following the death of a Service person (spouses and children) during this time. Individuals are eligible to have their claim considered under the WPS for any injury/illness/death caused by Service prior to 6 April 2005.

38. Although the figures presented cover all claims registered during the reported time period, the figures do not represent all individuals who have sustained a Service related injury/illness during that time. This is because there can be a time lag between an individual's injury/illness and the date they make a claim. Injured/ill UK Service personnel cannot submit a claim under the WPS until they have left Service.

39. In a given table, numbers of claims registered or cleared within a given time period may not sum to the total number of people. This is because one person can make more than one claim spanning different quarters or financial years, but would only be counted once in the overall total.

40. This publication presents, for the first time a summary of recipients who have opted to receive a lump sum award to compensate for Service-attributable mesothelioma. Further details on this can be found on page 4.

### **User Needs**

41. These statistics have been provided in response to an increasing number of requests for information about claims and awards under the scheme, and the number of individuals currently in receipt of War Pensions. 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, gender or Service). The report is used by external organisations such as NHS trusts, local Government and Armed Forces charities. The report is also used to support other MOD departments in work planning and policy development.

42. In 2012 and 2013 Defence Statistics carried out an internal and an external consultation to review the War Pension Scheme (WPS) National Statistic and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) Official Statistic to ensure they are coherent and continue to meet users' needs. The consultations were prompted by the UK Statistics Authority Assessment Report 197: Statistics on Defence Health, which required a review of the content of the publications in consultation with users.

43. Following this consultation the proposed changes to the War Pension Scheme were to:

- Include the number of people as well as the number of claims/awards in each report table. This has been proposed due to the high volume of requests Defence Statistics receive for the number of people who have made claims/been awarded under the scheme. *These additional figures were added to the latest WPS statistics, published on 6th June 2013.*
- Include total amounts paid out under the WPS to provide an idea of the overall amounts paid out each financial year under the scheme. *This was included in the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 publication.*
- Include numbers in receipt of war pensions for mental health conditions. Defence Statistics frequently receive requests for this information. *This was included in the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 publication.*

### **3. Accuracy**

44. DBS Veterans UK is responsible for ensuring the quality of WPCS data supplied to Defence Statistics. The WPCS is a large administrative database and is subject to the data quality issues of any large administrative system with data collated by a large number of staff for operational delivery purposes.
45. The figures 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.
46. Historic data are only 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. Revised figures can be identified by a revision marker 'r',
47. The main sources of potential error in the WPS statistics are as follows:
  - Incorrect information entered onto the WPCS by Veterans UK staff
  - Incomplete data extracts from Veterans UK
  - Data processing errors resulting in incorrect data outputs produced by Defence Statistics
  - Manual error during production of report tables, graphs and commentary by Defence Statistics
48. To ensure potential errors are identified and resolved, Defence Statistics implement a series of data quality checks throughout the report production. These checks involve close liaison with Veterans UK when required, to ensure the accuracy of the figures published. Where there is concern over the accuracy of data, Defence Statistics will publish the information as provisional ('p').

### **4. Timeliness and Punctuality**

#### **Timeliness**

49. Data are provided to Defence Statistics on a quarterly basis. Between 2008 and 2010 figures were published on a quarterly basis. Following user consultation the frequency of publication was reduced from quarterly to biannual in 2010, and then further reduced down to an annual frequency from 2011.

50. Figures as at 31 March are published in June, up to 12 weeks after the end of the reporting period. It takes four weeks to extract, validate and process data extracted from the WPCS. It takes a further six weeks to compile and quality assures the report.

### **Punctuality**

51. These National Statistics reports have all been published on time to meet pre-announced release dates. Future publication dates will also be announced on the Gov.UK at least one month in advance.

## **5. Accessibility and Clarity**

### **Accessibility**

52. The statistics can be accessed through the Gov.UK website at the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>

53. 24 hour pre-release access to the report is available to a limited distribution list within MOD. The full list can be found in the pre-release access list available on the Gov.UK website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list>.

### **Clarity**

54. Users with an interest in the key findings can read a short summary of main messages within the Introduction of the report. The report is then split into several sections to help users navigate their way through the publication.

55. Microsoft Excel versions of all AFCS report tables are also available on the Gov.UK website alongside each published report.

56. A glossary of all key terms is provided in Annex A of this Background Quality Report and in the Statistical Bulletin.

## **6. Coherence and Comparability**

57. The WPCS is the administration system for the War Pension Scheme; there are no other data sources from which information is being presented. However, Veterans UK create management information from the WPCS.

58. All definitions within this bulletin are consistent with the terms used by Veterans UK.

## **7. Trade-offs between output quality components**

59. Defence Statistics minimise the cost to Government of producing these statistics through using data already collated for operational delivery purposes within the MOD's administrative system. As a large administrative system, data quality across fields is of varying quality and completeness and this limits the information available to customers in our statistics and requests for information.



## 8. Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions

60. In reference to the UK Statistics Authority report, [The Use Made of Official Statistics](#)<sup>14</sup>, the WPS statistics are used by:

- (i) Government – Policy Making
- (ii) Government – Policy Monitoring
- (iii) Local Government – Service Delivery
- (iv) Academia – Facilitating Research
- (v) Charities – Service Delivery

### Description of Users and Usage of Statistics

61. The War Pension statistics have been published in response to user demand. Interest has come from internal MOD policy makers, Parliament, Government Departments, the third Sector, academics, the media, and the general public.

62. The WPS statistics are used by the following groups of customers:

- WPS policy teams use these statistical publications as a basis for policy making.
- Veterans UK use these figures for background information and for planning purposes e.g. estimating the volume/workload for different types of claims.
- External organisations such as Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local Government and Armed Forces charities use the reports and location figures as part of estimating and planning veteran casework provision e.g. to assess the numbers and needs of Service personnel and veterans in their local area.
- WPS statistics are also used by the media to give context to reports on Armed Forces Compensation.

63. Following the MOD's launch of the Armed Forces Community Covenant in June 2011, Defence Statistics received an increasing volume of requests from within the MOD, local Government departments and NHS trusts for information on the number of veterans by location. This was required to assist with planning for the needs of Service personnel and veterans in each specific area of the UK.

64. To meet these requirements Defence Statistics compiled information on the numbers of Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS), War Pension Scheme (WPS) and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) recipients with summaries by location. This was initially published in November 2011, with the latest update published in July 2015.

65. The publication of these statistics also plays an important part in ensuring the Department's accountability to the British public.

### Strengths and Weakness in Relation to User Needs

66. Consultations to review the WPS statistics have been held to ensure they are coherent and continue to meet users' needs. The consultations were prompted by the UK Statistics Authority Assessment Report 197: Statistics on Defence Health, which required a review of the content of the publications in consultation with users.

67. During 2016/17, the War Pension Scheme National Statistics had 1,218 hits via the Gov.UK website.

68. The key strength of the WPS data is the efficient methods adopted to capture WPS data extracts. Validation checks are undertaken to ensure that the information provided in the reports is accurate.

69. The key weakness is that Defence Statistics have to rely on the level of detail that Veterans UK manually enter for each claim. There are also no other data sources that can be used to

validate the information provided to Defence Statistics. Furthermore, a great deal of the information is recorded in free text fields e.g. medical conditions and therefore it is not always possible able to identify information requested in ad-hoc requests. Information is not always complete, For example, Service Number is not complete and therefore cannot be used to link the WPS data to other datasets to acquire more comprehensive information.

70. Users external to the MOD are encouraged to give feedback via email ([DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)) and publications provide details of how to give feedback.

## 9. Performance cost and respondent burden

### Operational Cost

71. The production of the WPS statistics required approximately 0.28 Full Time Equivalent in 2016/17. This was broken down into the following:

- Time taken to produce annual WPS Statistical Bulletin and WPS internal reports – approximately 30 days
- Time taken to respond to around 25 requests for information (including internal ad-hoc requests, FOI requests and PQs) – approximately 40 days

72. The WPS report uses an administrative data source which is already collected by the MOD. Therefore, the main operational cost to production of the statistics is liaison with Veterans UK, for quality assurance and data interpretation.

## 10. Confidentiality, Transparency and Security

73. Defence Statistics have data access agreements with Veterans UK with respect to obtaining the WPS data extracts. All Defence Statistics staff involved in the production have signed a declaration that they have completed the Government wide Responsible for Information: General User training and they understand their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and the Official Statistics Code of Practice.

74. Only individuals who produce these statistics have access to the underlying data. Defence Statistics ensures that the WPS data are kept confidential by holding this data on a secure server.

75. In line with the directives of the JSP 200, disclosure control is conducted on all statistical information provided by the MOD to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. Within these statistics a risk of disclosure has been considered to be high where numbers presented are fewer than three. In cases where a risk of disclosure exists, one of three appropriate disclosure control methods have been applied:

- Figures have been suppressed: In most cases where there may be a risk of disclosure, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is fewer than three, secondary suppression has been applied where the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.
- Figures have been grouped: In some cases where the suppression of information would result in larger numbers being 'hidden' as a result of secondary suppression, columns and/or rows have been grouped together in order to present larger numbers.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest five: In some cases where the suppression of information would result in larger numbers being 'hidden' as a result of secondary suppression and it has not been possible to group columns and/or rows, figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

## 11. References

1. UK Statistics Authority (UKSA): <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>
2. UKSA Protocols on Pre-Release Access: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/legislation/pre-release-access/>
3. Types of Official Statistics: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/types-of-official-statistics/>
4. UKSA Code of Practice: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>
5. Location of armed forces pension and compensation recipients Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>
6. War Pension Scheme Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/war-pension-scheme/war-pension-scheme-what-you-need-to-know>
7. Veterans UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk>
8. Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-compensation/armed-forces-compensation-what-you-need-to-know#payment-arrangements>
9. Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Bi-annual Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>
10. Disablement pensioner war pension and gratuity amounts: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/590809/Uprating\\_2017\\_Gov\\_UK.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590809/Uprating_2017_Gov_UK.pdf)
11. HM Courts and Tribunals Service: <https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/upper-tribunal-administrative-appeals-chamber>
12. Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service: <http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-gb/tribunals/pensionsappeal/Pages/PensionsAppealTribunal.aspx>
13. Mesothelioma Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-flexible-compensation-for-veterans-with-cancer-caused-by-asbestos>
14. The use made of Official Statistics: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/archive/assessment/monitoring/monitoring-reviews/monitoring-brief-6-2010---the-use-made-of-official-statistics.pdf>

**Note:** The MOD is not responsible for the contents or reliability of the listed non-MOD web sites and does not necessarily endorse the views expressed therein. Listings should not be taken as endorsement or any kind.

The MOD has no control over the availability of these sites. Users access them at their own risk. The information given was correct at the time of publication.

## Glossary

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**Adult Dependant:** Adult relatives, i.e. sister, brother, aunt or uncle etc., for whom the service person was financially responsible.

**Age 80 addition (NI) (Disablement & Widow(er)):** This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner and a war widow(er) aged 80 or over.

**Age addition allowance:** This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner who is aged 65 or over and whose disablement is assessed at 40% or more. A war widow(er) may receive an additional allowance at age 65 which is increased at age 70, and again at age 80.

**Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation (ALSO):** This may be paid if a disablement 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 disablement percentage of at least 40%. This allowance plus their basic War Disablement Pension cannot exceed the 100% disablement pension rate.

**Appeal:** If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of any of their claims they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.

**Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS):** 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.

**Awarded 0%:** 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.

**Child allowance:** An eligible child under 16 years old may receive a child allowance. The child allowance may continue whilst the child continues in full time education or if the child is incapable of self-support due to an infirmity which arose before the age of 16 years.

**Cleared Claim:** 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.

**Clothing Allowance (CLOT):** This may be paid to a disablement pensioner with a disablement percentage of 20% or above where disablement causes exceptional wear and tear on clothing e.g. incontinence, wear to shoes due to poor gait, or to clothes due to wheelchair use.

**Comforts Allowance (COMF):** 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.

**Conditional list review:** 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.

**Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA):** This may be paid to a disablement 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.

**Current invaliding claims:** 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.

**DBS Veterans UK:** Responsible for administering the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.

**Departmental review:** 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.

**Deterioration claims:** 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.

**Disablement pensioner:** Ex-UK Armed Forces Service personnel with an injury/illness as a result of Service with a disablement percentage of 20% or above.

**Disablement Percentage:** First and second/subsequent claims are assessed by a doctor, and then he/she gives a percentage of up to 100%, dependent on how disabled the person is.

**Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance (ESDA):** This may be paid to a disablement 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.

**Funeral Expenses (FE):** 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.

**Further condition claims:** Disablement pensioners who already have entitlement to a war disablement pension can claim for an additional medical condition.

**Gratuity Payment:** 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.

**Inter-quartile range:** The inter-quartile range is the largest minus the smallest number in the middle 50% of the data.

**Inter War:** Disabled due to service between 1 October 1921 and 2 September 1939.

**Invalidity Allowance (IVA):** This may be paid to a disablement pensioner under the age of 60 in receipt of the **Unemployability Supplement**. The rate varies according to the age at which unemployability began.

**Median average:** 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.

**Modified Over Age Infirm Allowance (MOIA):** 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 **Over Age Infirm Allowance**.

**Modified Unemployability Supplement (MSUP):** 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.

**Over Age Infirm Allowance (OAIA):** 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.

**Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT):** The PAT hears appeals from all claimants who have disagreed with the decision made by Veterans UK on the outcome of their claim.

**Registered Claim:** A claim is classed as registered when Veterans UK begin a workflow on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS) for a claim.

**Restored Widow(er)s:** 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.

**Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance (SDOA):** This may be paid to a disablement pensioner who is entitled to Constant Attendance Allowance at one of the two highest rates, but who still normally has a gainful occupation.

**Survival Analysis:** 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.

**Supplementary Allowance:** Everyone in receipt of a War Pension can claim for extra allowances to help with the extra costs of a long-term health condition or disability:

**Temporary Allowance for Widow(er)s (TAW):** 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.

**Treatment Allowance (TA):** 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.

**Unemployability Supplement (UNSUPP):** 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.

**Unmarried Dependant:** 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.

**War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS):** 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.

**War widow(er)s' Rent Allowance (RENT):** A war widow(er) with a child or children may be eligible for a rent allowance.

**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).

**War Orphan:** 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.

**War Parent:** Parent of the deceased service person.

**War Pension Scheme (WPS):** 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.

**War widow(er):** Spouse of ex-Service person whose death was whilst in Service or related to a disablement due to Service prior to 6 April 2005.

**Working day:** 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