



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter received by the department on 7 May 2018 requesting the following information:

"Statistics of Non Freezing Cold Injury (NFCI) Claim Submissions for the period 1 Apr 2013 – 1 Apr 2018.

From those statistics I require:

Number of those awarded a compensation payment.

Number by classification of payments by disablement brackets, 0-5%, 6-14%, 15-19% and >20%."

The MOD sought clarification on your original request, and your email dated 31 May 2018 specified:

"I require the information in relation to an Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War pension Scheme."

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.

Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2018 there were **134** claimants awarded compensation for non-freezing cold injury (NFCI) under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). **Table 1** presents a breakdown by disablement percentage.

Table 1: Individuals awarded under the WPS for NFCI by disablement percentage, numbers
1 April 2013 - 31 March 2018¹

Disablement %	Count
0% ²	3
1 - 5%	77
6 - 14%	36
15 - 19%	~
20%	6
30%	~
No % recorded ³	8
Total	134

Source: War Pension Computer System (WPCS)

~ In line with JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed. Secondary suppression has been applied so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

1. Individuals who registered a claim between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2018.

2. The NFCI was deemed Service-attributable but not severe enough to warrant an award.

3. No disablement percentage recorded on the WPCS.

Table 2 presents the number of individuals who were awarded compensation for non-freezing cold injuries (NFCI) under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

Table 2: Individuals awarded under the AFCS for NFCI, by financial year¹, numbers
01 April 2013 – 31 March 2018

	Total ²	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of individuals	766	184	194	147	135	111

Source: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS)

1. Individuals awarded compensation for NFCI, whose claims were registered between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2018, broken down by the financial year the claim was registered.

2. The number of individuals in each financial year does not sum to the total number of individuals over the whole time period provided. This is because there were five individuals who were awarded for NFCI under the AFCS in two different financial years, but were only counted once in the overall total.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

War Pension Scheme (WPS)

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. The WPS is managed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with all compensation claims administered by Defence Business Services (DBS) Veterans UK.

The figures provided include individuals who have made a disablement claim under the WPS for a NFCI. All ex-Service personnel are entitled to register first claims under the WPS for injuries/illnesses as a result of Service prior to 6 April 2005. Compensation is paid for injuries/illnesses which arise as a result of service or are made worse by service, regardless of how they are sustained.

WPS disablement claims determined to be Service-attributable are awarded a disablement percentage between 0% and 100%:

- Those awarded at a disablement percentage of **20% - 100%** (recorded in 10% increments) are paid an ongoing weekly war pension.
- Those awarded at a disablement percentage of **1% - 19%** are paid a one off gratuity (lump sum) payment. These cases appear in the WPS data with a grouped disablement percentage of one of the following: 1-5%, 6-14%, 15-19%.
- 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.

Figures for the number of people awarded under the WPS include those awarded at all the above levels of disablement. Where an individual's level of disablement for the NFCI was reviewed, e.g. due to an appeal or a deterioration claim, the highest level of disablement was presented.

Claims for NFCI under the WPS are recorded in a free-text field. The figures provided were based on a search of the following terms: 'nfcI', 'trenchfoot', non-freez, non freez, chilblain as well as any probable misspellings or alternate spellings. As conditions are sometimes spelt incorrectly it is possible that some records with reference to NFCI have not been identified. Therefore the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

Defence Statistics publish an annual National Statistic on claims and awards under the WPS¹.

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.

Defence Statistics publish an annual National Statistic on claims and awards under the AFCS².

Claimants' injuries/illnesses considered to be Service-attributable are awarded under the AFCS in line with one of nine tariff of injury tables, which each cover the legislation surrounding the payment of compensation: Table 1 - Burns; Table 2 - Injury, Wounds and Scarring; Table 3 - Mental Disorders; Table 4 - Physical Disorders; Table 5 - Amputations; Table 6 - Neurological Disorders; Table 7 - Senses; Table 8 - Fractures and Dislocations; and Table 9 - Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Awards for NFCI have been identified from the relevant descriptors in Table 2 – Injury, Wounds and Scarring.

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

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>