



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2018/09049
[REDACTED]

8 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 July 2018 requesting the following information:

- "The number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel with a NFCI recorded between the earliest and the latest available year, split by ethnicity and year
- The total amount paid out in the form of lump sum awards to those awarded under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for non-freezing cold injuries between the earliest and the latest available year, *split by ethnicity and year.*"

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.

Information you have requested on the number of UK Regular Armed Forces with a non-freezing cold injury (NFCI) have been withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. The Section 40(2) exemption has been applied to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. This is also in line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidelines. 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.

Part 1: The first UK Regular Armed Forces personnel with a coded diagnosis of NFCI entered into their electronic patient record was in 2007. Please note, this is the year NFCI was first recorded in the electronic patient record (Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP), which was introduced in 2007) rather than the first time a UK Regular Armed Forces personnel was diagnosed with NFCI which, according to anecdotal evidence could date back to the First World War when cases of 'trench foot' were noted.

The first UK Regular Armed Forces personnel awarded compensation for a NFCI under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was awarded in 2011.

Table 1 presents the number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel with a NFCI recorded between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2018 (the latest year available), by ethnicity and financial year. Please note, UK Regular Armed Forces personnel with multiple episodes of NFCI have been counted once within the table below indicating their first episode of NFCI from 1 April 2007.

Table 1: UK Regular Armed Forces personnel with a NFCI, by ethnicity^{1,2} and financial year, numbers^r

1 April 2007 to 31 March 2018

Ethnicity	All Years	Financial Year										
		2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
All	4,888	284	363	607	499	450	642	429	508	391	351	364
White	2,740	154	176	355	293	231	338	223	279	241	231	219
BAME ¹	2,049	97	155	232	203	215	302	206	227	149	119	144
Not Recorded ²	99	33	32	20	3	4	2	0	2	1	1	1

Sources: Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP); Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA)
1 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic.

2 Please note that declaration of Ethnic origin is not mandatory for Armed Forces personnel.

r. Numbers have been revised following the publication of FOI 2017/04117. This is due to a revision in the ethnicity both where data quality has improved and where ethnicity has now been declared. In addition to this, DMICP is a live system therefore numbers have been revised accordingly.

Part 2: The methodology used to compile information on awarded claims under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme changed in June 2017. Prior to this date only successful initial claims were used to report on claims awarded under the scheme. Since June 2017 reporting on successful AFCS claims have also included claims which were initially unsuccessful but went on to be awarded following reconsideration, appeal or review. Therefore, the numbers presented in Tables 2 and 3 may differ from any information released on NFCI awards prior to June 2017.

Table 2 presents the number of claims awarded for a NFCI under the AFCS and **Table 3** presents the amounts awarded in the form of lump sum awards, broken down by ethnicity and financial year.

Table 2: Claims awarded under the AFCS for a NFCI, by ethnicity and financial year¹, numbers

1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018

Ethnicity	All years ²	Financial year						
		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
All	2,074	495	245	340	283	337	199	175
White	393	85	67	48	38	71	43	41
BAME ³	1,654	391	176	289	245	266	156	131
Not recorded ⁴	27	19	2	3	0	0	0	3

Sources: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS), Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA)

1 Financial year that the awarded NFCI claim was cleared.

2 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018

3 Black, Asian and minority ethnic.

4 Please note that declaration of Ethnic origin is not mandatory for Armed Forces personnel.

Table 3: Total amount awarded in the form of lump sum payments under the AFCS for a NFCI, by ethnicity and financial year¹, £

1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018

Ethnicity	All years ²	Financial year						
		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
All	11,527,400	2,652,600	1,375,200	1,863,600	1,679,400	1,852,600	1,144,000	960,000
White	2,028,000	401,400	372,000	235,800	194,400	371,400	249,000	204,000
BAME ³	9,341,000	2,134,200	992,400	1,614,000	1,485,000	1,481,200	895,000	739,200
Not recorded ⁴	158,400	117,000	10,800	13,800	0	0	0	16,800

Sources: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS), Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA)

1 Financial year the awarded NFCI claim was cleared.

2 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2018

3 Black, Asian and minority ethnic.

4 Please note that declaration of Ethnic origin is not mandatory for Armed Forces personnel.

The numbers presented in Table 1 and Table 2 show that while there are more UK Regular Armed Forces personnel of White descent with an NFCI recorded in their electronic medical record, there are more claims awarded under the AFCS for a NFCI for personnel who are of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) descent.

This is further supported by research which has been conducted on the prevalence of cold injuries amongst afro-caribbeans. For example, Imray et al. (2017)¹ found that young male afro-caribbeans in the British Army have been found to have a 30 times greater chance of developing peripheral cold injury and are more severely affected than their Caucasian counterparts following similar climatic exposure, using similar clothing and equipment.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note the following:

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme

The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) was rolled out in 2007 and is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. Prior to the roll out of DMICP in 2007, patient medical records were held on stand-alone computer systems and in paper records.

The electronic patient record has information that is read coded. Read codes are a set of clinical codes designed for Primary Care to record the everyday care of a Patient. They are part of a hierarchical structure and form the recognised standard for General Practice.

The following read codes were used to identify cases of NFCI from DMICP:

Read Code	Description
DMS4248	Non freezing cold injury to feet
TRIQQNF1	NFCI to feet alone
TRIQQNF4	NFCI to feet and hands or other body part
TRIQQNO19	Non freezing cold injury
TRIQQNF2	NFCI to hands alone
SN14	Immersion (trench) foot
DMS4250	Non freezing cold injury to other
DMS4249	Non freezing cold injury to hands
SN15	Chilblains
TRIQQNF3	NFCI to any body part except hands or feet
SN15	Perniosis
TRIQQCH3	Chilblains
PCS15089NF1	NFCI fully resolved - MFD with medical risk marker
PCD14089NF2	NFCI persists - recommend MLD
PCS15089NF3	NFCI persists - recommend MND
PCS15089NF4	NFCI persists - refer to FMB
PCSDT_TRIQQNO19	Non Freezing Cold Injury

Any data entered as free text only in the patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 12 July 2018.

¹ 7 Imray CH, Richards P, Greeves J, Castellani JW, 2011, Nonfreezing cold-induced injuries, J R Army Med Corps 157(1): 79-84

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)

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. The last update was published in June 2018 (as at 31 March 2018).

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. The information supplied in this response concerns awards made under 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.

This response presents the number of NFCI claims awarded compensation and the amounts paid out in the form of lump sums under the AFCS as at 31 March 2018. The figures provided includes awards made as a result of an initial claim or following a later review, reconsideration or appeal. Any cases of Service-attributable NFCI which were considered not severe enough to attract a lump sum award under the AFCS were excluded.

The amount awarded as a lump sum for a NFCI is dependent on the severity of the injury, the part(s) of the body affected and the other injuries/illnesses claimed for. Further details on the decision-making process and payment of lump sum awards can be found on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-compensation/armed-forces-compensation-what-you-need-to-know>

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA)

Ethnicity is presented by two groups; White and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME). Ethnicity was extracted from Joint Personnel Administration (JPA). JPA is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces Personnel. Please note that declaration of Ethnic origin is not mandatory for Armed Forces personnel.

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/>.

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

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)