



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI/2018/11929

Defence Business Services
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

E-mail:
DBSRESecretariat@mod.gov.uk

5 October 2018

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 August 2018 to the Ministry of Defence requesting the following information:

*"I understand that there is a Bi-lateral agreement between the UK/USA concerning Medical Services for retired service personnel with Service Related Injuries!
Can you tell me what services are provided in the UK and whether their families are included.
Are there any medical services included where no injuries exist?"*

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Please find attached a copy of the "Executive Summary of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Treatment of Defence Business Services Vets UK (DBS Vets UK) War Pensioners and/or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) Members residing in the USA." This document provides a basis by which UK Veterans can receive treatment for conditions which are accepted as being caused by their Service in HM Armed Forces, just as they would receive via the National Health Service if they resided in the UK.

Treatment costs are initially paid by the US Vets Affairs and are reimbursed by the British Government via DBS Vets UK. The memorandum sets out the process for approval of treatment and funding, however, it is important to note that this memorandum is not a reciprocal agreement.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find the links below regarding National Health Service provision useful:

<https://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/doctors/Documents/Using-the-NHS-Information-for-visitors-from-abroad.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-the-nhs-charges-overseas-visitors-for-nhs-hospital-care/how-the-nhs-charges-overseas-visitors-for-nhs-hospital-care>

Advice for US Veterans can be accessed at the link below:

<https://va.gov/>

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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 Business Services (Secretariat)