



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 22 November 2018 requesting the following information:

"In February 2016 I made the following request to you:-

I would like to know specifically the number of Fijian soldiers who have served or are serving in the British Army, who have received compensation for PTSD as a result of their active service. I would also like to know the number of Fijian soldiers who have applied for compensation for PTSD.

You very kindly provided that information from 6th April 2005 until 2nd March 2016, I would be grateful if you could bring that information up to *date*."

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 6th April 2005 and 31 March 2018, a minimum of **30** serving/ex-serving UK Army personnel, with a nationality of Fijian, claimed compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), all of whom were subsequently awarded compensation for PTSD.

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

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 AFCS:

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

The latest update was published on 28 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 3 – Mental Disorders.

Since responding to your previous Freedom of Information request (response sent on 2 March 2016), a number of methodological changes have been made when analysing data from the AFCS:

- Prior to March 2017, injury/illness and survivors' claim outcomes were determined from the outcome of the initial claim. The methodology was amended in 2017 so that the statistics reflect the latest outcome of all claims. All initial claims with no further activity (i.e. no subsequent reconsiderations, appeals etc.) retained their initial outcome, and initial claims with later registered reconsiderations, appeals and/or reviews were analysed to determine the latest tariff level awarded.
- Claims for PTSD under the AFCS were identified using a free-text field. The figures provided were based on a search of the following terms: 'PTSD', 'post traumatic stress' and 'post-traumatic stress'. Although efforts have been made to accommodate for incorrect spelling and identify as many ways to spell 'PTSD' and 'post-traumatic stress' as possible, there may be some records that reference PTSD that have not been identified in this response. Therefore, the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

The records of individuals who were awarded compensation under Table 3 (Mental Disorders) of the AFCS tariff of injury tables were searched to identify which claimants were awarded for PTSD.

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 AFCS claims awarded compensation for PTSD under the Mental Disorder tariff of injury table 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.

Joint Personnel Administration System

Armed Forces personnel data on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System was used to identify individuals with a nationality of Fijian. JPA holds personnel data from April 2007 onwards and therefore Fijian personnel who claimed under the AFCS for PTSD and exited the Services prior to April 2007 would not have been identified. Therefore, the figures provided should be treated as a minimum.

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

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