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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 29 November 2018 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to make an open Government request for information I am entitled to under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If possible I would be grateful if you could send the following information in spreadsheet format.

My questions are relating to claims and appeals made to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) by members of the British Armed Forces from 2006 to 2018. I would like the questions to be answered for each year from 2006 to 2018 inclusive and to include the applicants rank at time of submission of the application.

Initial Applications.

- 1, Please can you furnish the number of claims to the AFCS, submitted by members of our Armed Forces each year (2006-2018)? (Could this figure be broken down by the rank of the individuals on the claim form at time of submitting to the AFCS).
- 2, How many initial injury claims to the AFCS were successful in each year (2006 - 2018)? (Could this be broken down by the rank of the individuals).
- 3, How many initial injury claims to the AFCS were unsuccessful in each year (2006 -2018)? (Could this be broken down by the rank of the individuals).

Appeals

I would like to receive information relating to appeals made to the AFCS during the period 2006 - 2018, again with details of the applicants rank at time of submitting of the appeal.

- 1, How many applicants who appealed against the AFCS initial decision were successful in each year (2006-2018)? (Could this be broken down by the rank of the individuals).
- 2, How many applicants who appealed against the AFCS initial decision were unsuccessful in each year (2006-2018)? (Could this be broken down by I look forward to hearing from you soon.

I would like the above information to be provided to me as paper and e-mail copies."

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.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. In line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidelines numbers fewer than three have been suppressed to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities; secondary suppression has been applied so numbers cannot be derived. 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.

The figures presented in the AFCS National Statistic are broken down by financial year rather than calendar year, as such, the figures presented in this FOI response are also by financial year. Due to risk of disclosure, the outcomes of initial claims and appeals by financial year and NATO rank have not been provided. However, the outcomes of initial claims and appeals have been provided by financial year and Officers and Other Ranks status.

Between the financial years 2006/07 and 2017/18, there were a total of 78,978 initial injury/illness claims and 5,251 appeals registered under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) that had been cleared<sup>1</sup> as at 31 March 2018.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 present a breakdown of outcomes of all 78,978 cleared initial claims and 5,251 appeals that were registered between the financial years 2006/07 and 2017/18, by NATO rank of claimant. As requested the tables are also provided in Excel format in Annex A.

Note that NATO Rank was determined for all claimants as at date of AFCS claim registration, or last known NATO rank for those who registered a post-Service claim. Therefore, information presented in this response may not reflect the NATO rank of claimants at the time of their injury or onset of ill health.

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<sup>1</sup> Cleared AFCS initial claims and appeals are those with an outcome determined. This response excludes initial claims and appeals pending a decision.



**Table 1: Registered Initial Claims and Appeals by Outcome<sup>1</sup>, Financial Year<sup>2</sup>, and Other Rank/Officer Status, Numbers**

1 April 2006 - 31 March 2018

Claim Type	All Years <sup>3</sup>	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>Initial Injury/Illness claims</b>	<b>78,978</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>2,768</b>	<b>4,374</b>	<b>5,301</b>	<b>6,526</b>	<b>7,303</b>	<b>7,775</b>	<b>8,699</b>	<b>8,961</b>	<b>9,246</b>	<b>9,086</b>	<b>7,468</b>
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>72,459</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>6,712</b>	<b>7,139</b>	<b>7,967</b>	<b>8,221</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>8,273</b>	<b>6,800</b>
Accepted <sup>4</sup>	<b>50,795</b>	833	1,611	2,710	3,263	4,208	4,929	5,268	5,798	6,164	6,227	5,856	3,928
Rejected <sup>5</sup>	<b>21,664</b>	527	930	1,323	1,556	1,865	1,783	1,871	2,169	2,057	2,294	2,417	2,872
<b>Officers &amp; Officer Designates</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>666</b>
Accepted <sup>4</sup>	<b>4,686</b>	74	154	235	319	294	428	474	556	555	555	628	414
Rejected <sup>5</sup>	<b>1,798</b>	33	68	106	163	157	162	158	173	181	169	176	252
<b>Unknown Rank</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Appeals</b>	<b>5,251</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>4,901</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>48</b>
New or Increased Award <sup>6</sup>	<b>1,317</b>	16	43	61	60	81	152	147	246	241	194	62	14
Maintained Outcome <sup>7</sup>	<b>2,259</b>	11	46	108	91	165	222	264	402	426	351	153	20
Favourable Reconsideration <sup>8</sup>	<b>1,269</b>	~	9	53	97	138	166	143	194	223	135	~	14
Other Outcome <sup>9</sup>	<b>56</b>	~	4	5	7	3	4	5	7	11	8	~	0
<b>Officers &amp; Officer Designates</b>	<b>347</b>	~	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	~
New or Increased Award <sup>6</sup>	<b>115</b>	~	~	5	10	6	13	12	23	23	12	8	0
Maintained Outcome <sup>7</sup>	<b>140</b>	~	~	6	4	11	14	21	19	27	19	11	~
Favourable Reconsideration <sup>8</sup>	<b>89</b>	~	0	3	~	13	11	9	~	~	14	9	0
Other Outcome <sup>9</sup>	<b>3</b>	0	0	0	~	0	0	0	~	~	0	0	0
<b>Unknown Rank<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS)

1. Includes initial claims and appeals that have been cleared. Initial claims and appeals pending a decision have been excluded.

2. Financial year of claim registration

3. 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2018.

4. Accepted claims are those where the claimed injury/illness was accepted as attributable to Service, based on outcome of initial claim.

5. Rejected claims are those where the claimed injury/illness was not accepted as attributable to Service, based on outcome of initial claim.

6. Includes claims accepted (when previously rejected) following appeal, and previously accepted claims that resulted in an increased award following appeal.

7. Claims with no change in outcome following appeal.

8. Claims that had had a successful reconsideration outcome prior to appeal, and appeal was therefore withdrawn.

9. Includes other appeal outcomes including appeal withdrawals

10. There were some AFCS claimants that could not be linked to MOD legacy administration systems to determine their Rank at time of claim.

~ In line with the JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, numbers fewer than 3 have been suppressed. Secondary cell suppression has also been applied to the next smallest numbers so that the values of suppressed cells cannot

**Table 2: Registered Initial Claims by Outcome<sup>1</sup>, and NATO Rank<sup>2</sup>, Numbers**

1 April 2006 - 31 March 2018

Claim Type	All	Accepted <sup>3</sup>	Rejected <sup>4</sup>
<b>Registered Initial Injury/Illness claims</b>	<b>78,978</b>	<b>55,500</b>	<b>23,478</b>
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>72,459</b>	<b>50,795</b>	<b>21,664</b>
OR-1	271	209	62
OR-2	32,775	23,146	9,629
OR-3	11,376	8,447	2,929
OR-4	13,648	9,543	4,105
OR-6	7,524	5,053	2,471
OR-7	3,914	2,542	1,372
OR-8	2,043	1,325	718
OR-9	908	530	378
<b>Officers &amp; Officer Designates</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>4,686</b>	<b>1,798</b>
Officer Designates	234	188	46
OF-1	1,189	1,001	188
OF-2	3,003	2,200	803
OF-3	1,567	1,022	545
OF-4	393	224	169
OF-5	72	41	31
OF-6	21	9	12
OF-7	~	~	~
OF-8	~	~	~
<b>Unknown Rank<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>

**Source: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS)**

1. Includes initial claims that have been cleared. Initial claims pending a decision have been excluded.
  2. Rank information has been presented in line with the NATO Rank classifications, as detailed in Appendix A.
  3. Accepted claims are those where the claimed injury/illness was accepted as attributable to Service, based on outcome of initial claim.
  4. Rejected claims are those where the claimed injury/illness was not accepted as attributable to Service, based on outcome of initial claim.
  5. There were some AFCS claimants that could not be linked to MOD legacy administration systems to determine their Rank at time of claim.
- ~ In line with the JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed. Secondary cell suppression has also been applied to the next smallest numbers so that the values of suppressed cells cannot be derived from totals and sub-totals.



**Table 3: Registered Appeals by Outcome<sup>1</sup>, and NATO Rank<sup>2</sup>, Numbers**

1 April 2006 - 31 March 2018

Claim Type	All	New or Increased Award <sup>3</sup>	Maintained Outcome <sup>4</sup>	Favourable Reconsideration <sup>5</sup>	Other Outcome <sup>5</sup>
<b>Registered Appeals</b>	<b>5,251</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>4,901</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>56</b>
OR-1	16	6	6	4	0
OR-2	2,338	628	1,140	547	23
OR-3	711	209	313	184	5
OR-4	906	243	401	243	19
OR-6	496	132	198	161	5
OR-7	223	37	116	~	~
OR-8	148	47	62	~	~
OR-9	63	15	23	~	~
<b>Officers &amp; Officer Designates</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>3</b>
Officer Designates	7	~	3	~	~
OF-1	24	7	9	8	0
OF-2	186	58	73	53	0
OF-3	98	39	41	18	0
OF-4	21	7	8	6	0
OF-5	6	0	~	~	~
OF-6	~	~	~	~	0
OF-7	0	0	0	0	0
OF-8	~	~	0	0	0
<b>Unknown Rank<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Source: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS)**

1. Includes appeals that have been cleared. Appeals pending a decision have been excluded.
2. Rank information has been presented in line with the NATO Rank classifications, as detailed in Appendix A.
3. Includes claims accepted (when previously rejected) following appeal, and previously accepted claims that resulted in an increased award following appeal.
4. Claims with no change in outcome following appeal.
5. Claims that had had a successful reconsideration outcome prior to appeal, and appeal was therefore withdrawn.
6. Includes other appeal outcomes including appeal withdrawals.
7. There were some AFCS claimants that could not be linked to MOD legacy administration systems to determine their Rank at time of claim.  
~ In line with the JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed. Secondary cell suppression has also been applied to the next smallest numbers so that the values of suppressed cells cannot be derived from totals and sub-totals.

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.

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

Claimants registering an appeal must have first had their claim reconsidered. In cases where this has not happened, the appeal registration automatically launches a reconsideration. Reconsiderations resulting in a new or increased award are termed favourable. As at 31 March 2018 there were 1,358 registered appeals which had not been pursued following a favourable reconsideration. These appeals may or may not be pursued in the future.

Rank information has been presented in line with the NATO Rank classifications, as detailed in Appendix A. Armed Forces personnel data on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System was used to identify the NATO rank of AFCS claimants since April 2007. Single Service legacy systems were used to identify the NATO rank of AFCS claimants between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007. There were 35 initial claimants and three appellants who could not be linked to legacy administrative data to obtain their rank information.

The figures presented in this FOI response differ to the figures published in the National Statistic (as at 31 March 2018). The figures presented in this FOI response are based on initial claim outcome and appeals information is presented by financial year appeal registered. In comparison the National Statistic presents claims latest outcome and appeals information is presented by the financial year the appeal was cleared.

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](mailto: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)



NATO Code	Royal Navy	Royal Marines	Army	Royal Air Force
<b>Officers</b>				
OF-10	Admiral of the Fleet	-	Field Marshal	Marshal of the RAF
OF-9	Admiral	General	General	Air Chief Marshal
OF-8	Vice Admiral	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Air Marshal
OF-7	Rear Admiral	Major General	Major General	Air Vice-Marshal
OF-6	Commodore	Brigadier	Brigadier	Air Commodore
OF-5	Captain	Colonel	Colonel	Group Captain
OF-4	Commander	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Wing Commander
OF-3	Lieutenant Commander	Major	Major	Squadron Leader
OF-2	Lieutenant	Captain	Captain	Flight Lieutenant
OF-1	Sub-Lieutenant	Lieutenant/ 2nd Lieutenant	Lieutenant/ 2nd Lieutenant	Flying Officer/Pilot Officer
OF(D)	Midshipman	-	Officer Designate	Officer Designate
<b>Other Ranks</b>				
OR-9	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer Class 1	Warrant Officer
OR-8	Warrant Officer Class 2	Warrant Officer Class 2	Warrant Officer Class 2	-
OR-7	Chief Petty Officer	Colour Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Flight Sergeant/ Chief Technician
OR-6	Petty Officer	Sergeant	Sergeant	Sergeant
OR-4	Leading Rate	Corporal	Corporal	Corporal
OR-3	-	Lance Corporal	Lance Corporal	Lance Corporal
OR-2	Able Rating	Marine3	Private (Classes 1 to 3)	Junior Technician/ Leading Aircraftman/ Senior Aircraftman
OR-1	-	-	Private (Class 4)/ Junior	Aircraftman