



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Reference: FOI2019/02670

26 March 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 28 February 2019 requesting the following information:

“Please will you provide us with the following:-

1. The number of claims made to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for which compensation was paid for a non-freezing cold injury for all tariff levels for the years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Please provide the number per year and of those the number per year made by applicants who were of an Afro-Caribbean ethnicity.
2. Please provide the number of those of an Afro-Caribbean ethnicity serving in the Marines in the ranks between and including Private and WO1 and those in training for the years referred to in paragraph 1 above.
3. If known, please provide the number of civil claims made for a non-freezing cold injury against the Ministry of Defence for the same years as those set out at paragraph 1 above and of those, the numbers per year made by claimants of an Afro-Caribbean ethnicity.
4. If known, please provide the number of reported incidents of non-freezing cold injury to the *MOD's medical authorities including the Institute of Naval Medicine, Regional Occupational Health Teams, the non-freezing cold injury clinics at Catterick and Aldershot and the Navy Lessons and Incident Management System and of those reported the number concerning personnel of an Afro-Caribbean ethnicity*”.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The Ministry of Defence requires further information in order to determine whether it holds information within the scope of your request. Clarification is needed on a number of areas in your lines of questioning:

- a) With regards to all four of your questions, we have interpreted the term of ‘Afro-Caribbean’ used as equivalent to the MOD terminology of ‘Black Caribbean’. We need to know whether you are interested in personnel solely with an ethnicity of ‘Black Caribbean’ or personnel with an ethnicity of ‘Mixed Black Caribbean and White’, ‘Black African’, and ‘Mixed Black African and White’ in addition to the ‘Black Caribbean’ personnel.
- b) With regards to your first, third and fourth questions can you please confirm whether your request is for all members of the UK Regular Armed Forces (Naval Service, Army and RAF), or specific to an individual Service.
- c) With regards to your second question, we need clarity on rank terms used. ‘Private’ is not a rank in the Royal Marines. Do you wish to receive information for all non-commissioned Royal Marine ranks (i.e. excluding those of Officers)?

- d) With regards to your fourth question, you refer to both 'incidents' and 'personnel'. We have interpreted your question to refer to the reported number of personnel with an NFCI, and of those how many were concerning personnel of Black Caribbean ethnicity. Please note that within the health record data held by MOD it is not possible to identify episodes of care for individual incidents.
- e) With regards to your fourth question you specify the Navy Lessons and Incident Management System as the source for health and safety data. If your request refers to all members of the UK Regular Armed Forces would you like all the MOD health and safety data included? This includes data provided by; Army Incident Notification Cell (AINC), Accident and Incident Recording System (AIRS), Defence Equipment and Support Incident Notification Cell (DINC), Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), Joint Forces Command (JFC), Head Office and Corporate Services (HOCS), Naval Service Incident Notification Cell (NSINC).

Once you have clarified your request, I will be pleased to consider it again.

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 Statistics (Health)