



Ministry  
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 30 April 2019 requesting the following information:

*"I'm seeking statistics on veterans in the whole of the UK as well as specifically for the Newcastle/Gateshead area, on how many veterans there are, how many have mental health illness, amputees, and PTSD. I understand it could not be an exact number. Any assistance by yourself or to point me in the right direction would be greatly appreciated."*

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

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

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

Estimates on the number and location of UK Armed Forces veterans can be found in the two following statistical bulletins produced by the MOD:

#### **The MOD Annual Population Survey 2017**

The MOD has published veteran estimates using data compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from the veteran questions in the Annual Population Survey (APS): <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain-2017>). These statistics include responses from individuals living in households in England, Wales and Scotland (Great Britain) aged 16 and over. The veteran questions in the APS were not asked in Northern Ireland due to security concerns. The latest published statistics, as at 2017, estimated 2.4 million UK Armed Forces veterans residing in households across Great Britain. Table A2.5 present the estimated number of veterans by county of residence (one of the counties presented is Tyne and Wear). However, the sample size of the APS was too small to produce veteran estimates below county level.

#### **Census 2011: Working age UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in England and Wales**

The MOD has also published the Census 2011: Working age UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in England and Wales: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/census-2011-working-age-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-england-and-wales>. This statistical bulletin provides estimates on the size and socio-demographic characteristics of the working age UK Armed Forces veteran population (between 16 and 64 years of age), using responses provided in the 2011 Census, administered across England and Wales by the ONS. Summary figures on veterans are presented on: people characteristics (gender, age and ethnicity); location (country, region, county, local authority and NHS authority areas); health; disability; employment status; highest education qualification obtained and housing. The supplementary Annex A Tables present findings for Gateshead and Newcastle Upon-Tyne across all topics.

Although the MOD doesn't hold more up-to-date information on the location of all veterans, information is held by the MOD on the location of known veteran cohorts:

## Location of UK Armed Forces Pension and Compensation Recipients

This information is published in an annual statistical bulletin:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients-2018>.

The latest update was published on 16 August 2018 (as at 31 March 2018). The next statistical bulletin (as at 31 March 2019) will be published in August 2019.

Specifically, Annex A of this Statistical Bulletin presents summary information on veteran pension and compensation recipients by country (Table 2), region, county, local authority (Table 3), local health organisation (Table 4), and postcode district (Table 5).

The following veteran cohorts are included:

- a. **Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS)** - UK Armed Forces veterans in receipt of an occupational pension under one of the following Armed Forces Pension Schemes: AFPS 75 or APFS 05. It does not include those in receipt of an occupational pension under the AFPS 15.
- b. **War Pension Scheme (WPS)** - UK Armed Forces veterans in receipt of a disablement pension under the War Pension Scheme. The WPS provides no-fault compensation for Service-attributable injury or illness from the start of the First World War in 1914 until 5 April 2005.
- c. **Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)** - UK Armed Forces veterans who have been awarded compensation under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme. The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for Service-attributable injury or illness from this date

Please note that veterans who are not in receipt of an occupational pension under the AFPS and have not been awarded compensation under the WPS or AFCS will not be included in these statistics.

Information on the number and type of conditions awarded compensation for Service attributable injury/illness can be found in the following National Statistic:

### 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 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). The AFCS National Statistic (as at 31 March 2019) will be published on 27 June 2019.

Table 13 in the accompanying Annex A Tables present the number of conditions awarded compensation under the AFCS tariff of injury tables:

- a. Burns,
- b. Injury, wounds and scarring,
- c. Mental disorders,
- d. Physical disorders,
- e. Amputations,
- f. Neurological disorders,
- g. Senses,
- h. Fractures and dislocations,
- i. Musculoskeletal disorders.

Please note that Table 13 provides the number of conditions awarded compensation under the AFCS to both Serving personnel and veterans.

Information on the numbers of UK Service personnel whose injuries included a traumatic or surgical amputation who have since medically discharged can be found in the following statistical bulletin:

### **UK Service personnel amputation statistics**

Defence Statistics publish an annual bulletin which presents information on the number of UK Service personnel who suffered an amputation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-service-personnel-amputation-statistics-index>

The latest update was published on 26 July 2018 (as at 31 March 2018).

An amputation is the traumatic (accidental) or surgical removal of part of the body, and can range from the loss of entire limbs, to the loss of part of a finger or toe.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives. An element of the covenant focusses on ensuring members of the armed forces community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen. The following report highlights work that has been done within the area of veterans' mental health:

### **Armed Forces Covenant annual report and summary**

The report sets out major achievements of the Armed Forces Covenant and highlights remaining challenges and new commitments across the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-and-summary-2018>

The latest update was published on 21 November 2018.

For England Mental Health, this publication presents information on improving access to psychological therapies (IAPT) for veterans, including waiting times, the number of referrals entering and completing treatment, improvement and recovery (Tables 5-7). It also presents information on transition, intervention and liaison services (TILS), including waiting times for assessment and treatment, plus the number of referrals receiving assessment, treatment and discharging (Tables 8-9). Please see <https://www.veteransservicelse.nhs.uk/> for further information on TILS.

For Veterans NHS Wales (VNHSW), this publication presents information on the number of referrals receiving assessment and treatment, waiting times for assessment and treatment, plus reliable improvement (Tables 10-12). Please see <https://www.veteranswales.co.uk/> for further information on VNHSW.

It should be noted that the provision of veterans' healthcare, including mental healthcare and prosthetics support, is primarily the responsibility of the NHS in England and the Devolved Administrations.

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

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