



Ministry
of Defence



UK Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Annual Statistics 6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019

Published: 27 June 2019

This annual bulletin provides summary statistics on claims and awards made under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). The AFCS is a no-fault scheme, which financially compensates for injury/illness and death caused by service in the UK Armed Forces on or after 6 April 2005.

Note that revisions have been made to historical clearance times statistics and therefore figures in this Statistical Bulletin supersedes all previously published statistics.

Key Points

The AFCS compensates Service-attributable:

Injury/illness caused or made worse by Service in the UK Armed Forces on or after 6 April 2005.

Death caused by, or substantially hastened by Service in the UK Armed Forces on or after the 6 April 2005.

During the 2018/19 financial year:



9,311^P Injury/illness
45^P survivors'
claims were registered



60 Working Days
To clear injury/illness claims
(median average)



Expenditure

£80.2M^P

Paid in compensation
for Service-attributable
injury/illness

£9.6M^P

Paid to surviving
dependents following
deaths caused by Service

As at 31 March 2019, there were:



307 spouses in receipt of a
Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP)



313 children in receipt of a child
payment

Of the 6,719 injury/illness claims that were registered during 2018/19:



44%^P awarded



15%^P accepted, no award



41%^P rejected



The figures above may change as the 2,592 claims pending are cleared and their outcome known.



51%^P

Of all injury/illness
conditions awarded
were for
musculoskeletal
(MSK) disorders

<15%^P

However, only a small percent
of injury/illness conditions
awarded for MSK were severe
enough to attract a Guaranteed
Income Payment (GIP)

^P Figures relating to the number of claims, outcomes and conditions are marked as pending as these figures may change as pending claims are cleared and non-genuine claims identified. Accounts for the 2018/19 financial year are pending an audit and may change in future.

Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) and DBS Veterans UK Finance Team

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Background quality report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-background-quality-report>

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.gov.uk

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Other bulletins in this series and the supplementary tables (Annexes A and B) containing all data presented in this publication can be found at:

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

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in November 2013 following a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-letterofconfirmationasnationalstatisticsassessmentreport19_tcm97-43516.pdf

Since designation as National Statistics, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

Responded to public interest in specific elements of the AFCS, by including the presentation of information on claim clearance times, annual financial spend, interim awards made, and further detail on specific conditions of interest awarded compensation under the AFCS.

Updated the statistics to reflect any AFCS policy changes, for example reporting on recipients of the Armed Forces Independence Payment following its introduction in December 2015.

Continued to monitor data quality and accuracy of reporting and improved methodology where required, for example to;

- Report on latest claim outcomes instead of just initial claim outcome.
- Report clearance time statistics that reflect the full end-to-end process.

Full details on any methodology changes and inclusion of new information can be found in the Background Quality Report.

Introduction

This Statistical Bulletin presents summary information on the UK Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) as at 31 March 2019. The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005 and is managed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with all compensation claims administered by Defence Business Services (DBS) Veterans UK. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pension Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme.

The AFCS compensates for Service-attributable:

Injury/illness caused or made worse by Service in the UK Armed Forces on or after 6 April 2005.

Death caused by, or substantially hastened by Service in the UK Armed Forces on or after the 6 April 2005.

Further information on the eligibility to claim, and the processing of AFCS claims can be found in the MOD's AFCS Statement of Policy:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683176/20180215-JSP765-Official.pdf

These statistics have been provided in response to requests for information about claims and awards under the scheme, and are used by the MOD to support work planning and policy development, and external organisations such as NHS trusts, local Government and Armed Forces charities.

In 2010, a review of the AFCS was conducted under the independent chairmanship of former Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral the Lord Boyce. The Lord Boyce Review found the Scheme was fundamentally sound but required adjustment in some areas¹.

In 2016 a Quinquennial Review (QQR) was conducted to make sure that the scheme still remained fit for purpose and displayed the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions and environments². Overall, the QQR concluded that the AFCS remained on track and fit for purpose, with some areas needing improvement. In April 2018, the MOD published a 'One Year On' Report³ to discuss the response to the QQR recommendations. These recommendations (increasing the tariff amounts awarded for all tariff levels from 1 to 15) were implemented on 9 April 2018 for new claimants only.

All tables provided in previous releases of this report have been updated with 2018/19 data and are available in Annexes A and B as separate Excel and Open Document Spreadsheet (ODS) files at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>

The MOD also publishes annual statistics summarising MOD compensation payments under the;

- a) War Pension (AFCS). This scheme considers claims for compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>
- b) Common Law Compensation Scheme. This scheme considers claims or compensation on the basis of whether the MOD has a legal liability to pay compensation. Where there is a proven legal liability, compensation is paid:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-compensation-claims-statistics>

Other related MOD Official Statistics:

- c) Annual Location Statistics on the location of pension and compensation recipients: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>
- d) A four-part publication on the size and socio-demographic characteristics of the UK Armed Forces veteran population residing in Great Britain. The last in the series was published in 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>
- d) A one-off publication using Census 2011 data: Working Age UK Armed Forces veterans residing in England and Wales. 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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/census-2011-working-age-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-england-and-wales>

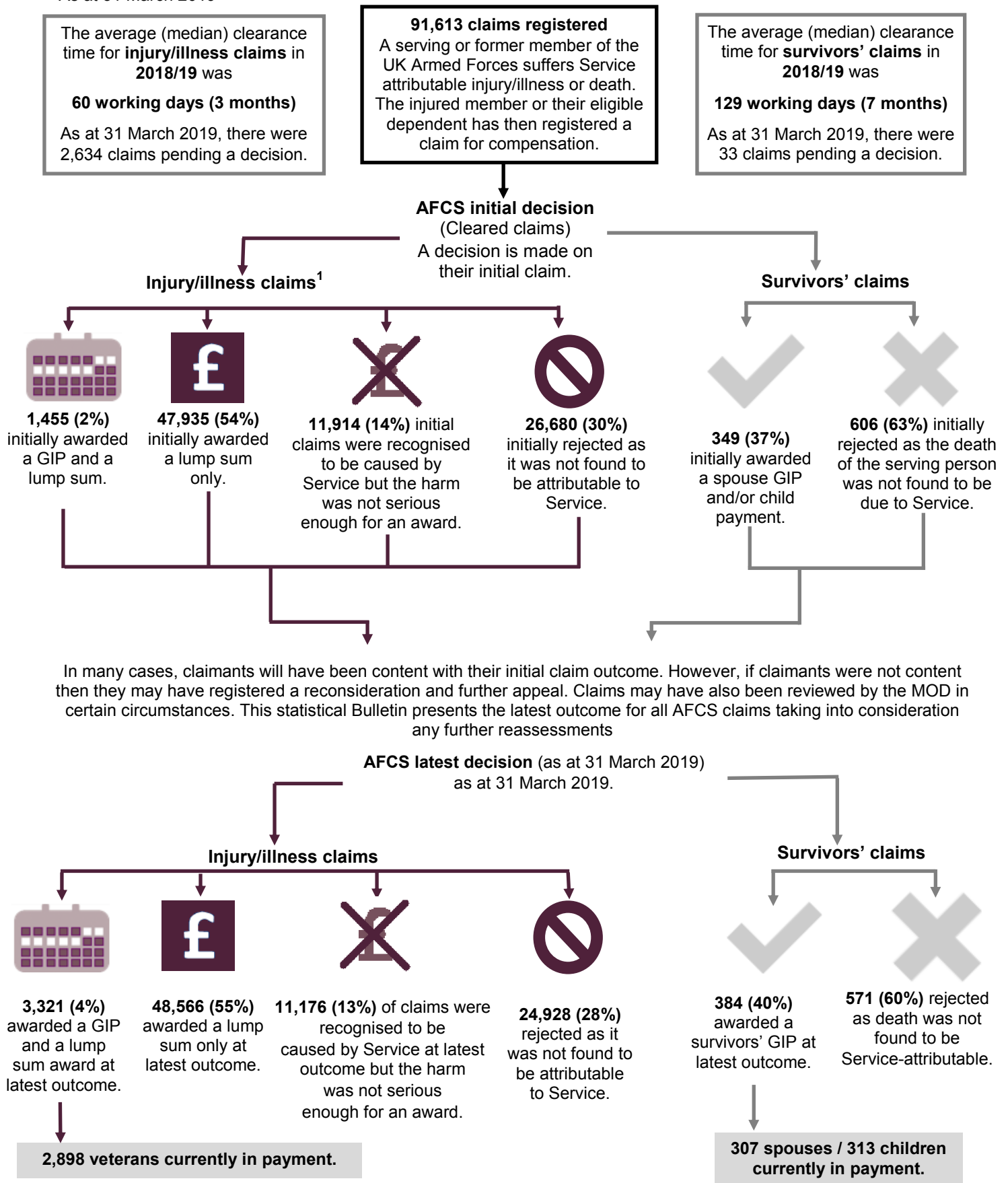
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Flow chart of the AFCS claim process

Figure 1 portrays the journey of an AFCS injury/illness or survivors' claim.

Figure 1: UK AFCS claim process

As at 31 March 2019



1. There were 7 cleared claims with no initial outcome recorded on the CAPS.

(Tables 1, 2, 6, 7, 15 and 20, Annexes A and B)

Source: Compensation and Pension System

Registered Claims

This section provides summary statistics on injury/illness claims, survivors' claims, reconsiderations, appeals and reviews registered under the AFCS during 2018/19, with trends over time.

Note that figures are provisional and should therefore not be considered final. Figures are provisional for two reasons:

1. Any pending initial injury/illness and survivors' claims that are later identified as 'non-genuine' will be removed from these figures in the future. As such, the figures presented here may reduce in future reporting.
2. In recent years there has been a delay in the registration of reviews and reconsiderations on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS), the administrative system used to capture electronic information on the AFCS. Therefore, it is anticipated that the number of reviews and reconsiderations registered in 2018/19 may increase in future reporting.

During 2018/19 there were;

9,311^P Injury / illness claims

registered by serving and ex-serving UK Armed Forces personnel for compensation for Service-attributable injury or illness.

Annual numbers of registered claims have increased year-on-year since the start of the scheme until 2015/16, from which annual numbers registered have stabilised.

45^P Survivors' claims

registered to apply for compensation for Service-attributable death.

Annual numbers of registered claims have primarily been driven by Operational tempo, with peaks reflecting Operational deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.

1,333^P Reconsiderations

registered by all claimants who wished to request for their claim outcome to be reconsidered.

1,309^P Appeals

registered by claimants requesting for their claim to be reviewed at a Pension Appeal Tribunal.

1,584^P Reviews

registered to request for their claim to be assessed under one of the formal review processes.

Injury/illness claims: Registered by UK Armed Forces personnel and veterans for injury/illness caused by Service since 6 April 2005.

Survivors' claims: Registered by, and on behalf of, eligible spouses and partners following the death of a Service person or veteran where the cause of death was attributed to Service in the UK Armed Forces since 6 April 2005.

Reconsiderations: All claimants may request for DBS Veterans UK to reconsider their claim if they are not satisfied with the outcome.

Appeals: All claimants may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Pension Appeal Tribunal if they are not satisfied with the outcome of their claim.

Reviews: Collective title for specific re-evaluations that can be made on a claim. Reviews can be claimant or department-led. See Glossary for full list of reviews.

Pending claims: Registered initial injury/illness and survivors' claims with no outcome recorded on the CAPS as at 31 March 2019.

Non-genuine cases: Claims entered onto the CAPS which are later: withdrawn by the claimants; passed to the WPS to be assessed (for a pre-April 6 2005 injury, illness or death); and duplicates recorded in error removed.

Further information on all claim types and non-genuine cases can be found in the Background Quality Report.

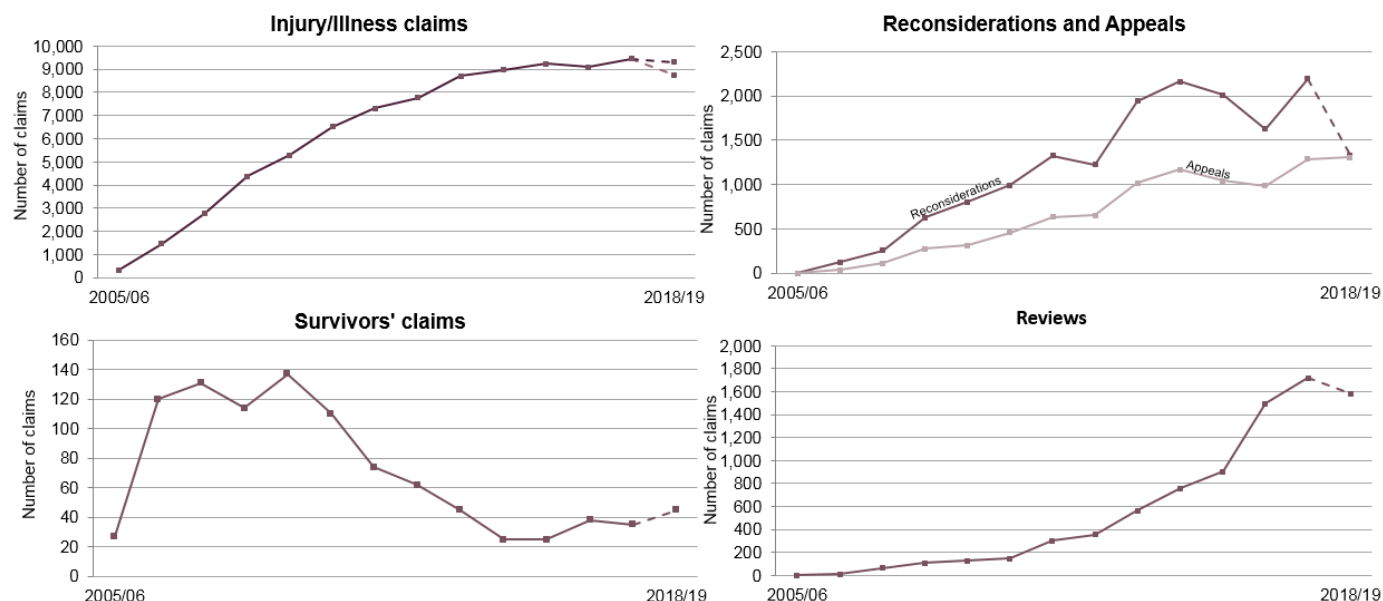
Figure 2 shows that the numbers of registered injury/illness claims have increased year-on-year between 2005/06 and 2015/16. Since 2015/16 annual numbers of registered claims have remained more steady, with approximately 9,200 claims registered each year.

Annual increases in the number of registered claims have driven the numbers of reconsiderations, appeals and reviews to also increase during this time, though there is more fluctuation from one year to the next.

Registered Claims (cont.)

Figure 2: AFCS injury/illness claims, survivors' claims, reconsiderations, appeals and reviews registered, by financial year¹, number of claims^P

6 April 2005² to 31 March 2019



Source: Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

1. By financial year in which claims were registered
2. The AFCS scheme began on the 6 April 2005.

^P The 2018/19 trend lines for injury/illness claims, survivors' claims, reconsiderations and reviews are provisional and marked as '- -'.

Based on historical observations it is expected that the number of injury/illness claims registered in 2018/19 may decrease by approximately 6% as pending claims are later identified as non-'genuine' (see the Background Quality Report for further details). Therefore, a second provisional line (marked in lighter font) has been presented in Figure 2 to show the potential trend for 2018/19, if 6% of all registered injury/illness claims are later identified as 'non-genuine'. It is currently unknown where the number of registered 2018/19 injury/illness claims will fall following the removal of 'non-genuine' cases.

The number of registered survivors' claims peaked in 2009/10, a time when there was a high volume of military deaths due to operations in Iraq (which ended on 22 May 2011) and Afghanistan (which ended on 12 December 2014). The number of survivors' claims have decreased over the last ten years. However, there was an increase in the number of survivors' claims from 35 in 2017/18 to 45 in 2018/19. Trends in survivors' claims may not reflect published MOD in-Service deaths statistics⁴ as Survivors may claim for compensation up to three years following a death, and claims may also be registered by spouses and partners of veterans who may have died as a result of Service-attributable injury or illness. As at 31 March 2019, there were 33 pending survivors' claims, some of which may later be identified as 'non-genuine'. As such, the 2018/19 trend line for registered survivors' claims presented in Figure 2 have been presented provisional and marked as '- -'.

In previous years there has been a delay in the registering of reconsiderations and reviews on the CAPS (see Background Quality Report for further information). Therefore, it is expected that the number of reconsiderations and reviews registered in the 2018/19 financial year will increase in future updates of these statistics. As such, the 2018/19 trend lines for these figures presented in Figure 2 have been presented provisional and marked as '- -'.

Clearance times

This section provides summary information on the average (median) number of working days it took to clear claims, reconsiderations and appeals registered under the AFCS, as an indication of how long a claimant can expect to wait, on average, for a decision. Figures are presented for claims cleared in 2018/19, with comparisons to 2017/18.

Due to a previous change in methodology it is not possible to compare figures with clearance times prior to 2017/18. However, figures calculated using the old methodology covering the period 6 April 2005 to 31 March 2017 can still be accessed in Annexes A and B. See Background Quality Report for further information on the change in methodology.

During the production of the 2018/19 statistics it was discovered that survivors' reconsiderations and appeals were not included in clearance times calculations of historic bulletins. This error has now been rectified, with historical clearance times updated and revisions marked with an 'r' within Tables 8 and 9 of Annexes A and B. See Background Quality Report for further details of the revisions made.

Note that Clearance times information presented within this 2018/19 National Statistic supersedes information presented in previous Statistical Bulletins.

During 2018/19;

Injury / illness claims were cleared, on average, within **60 working days (3 months)**

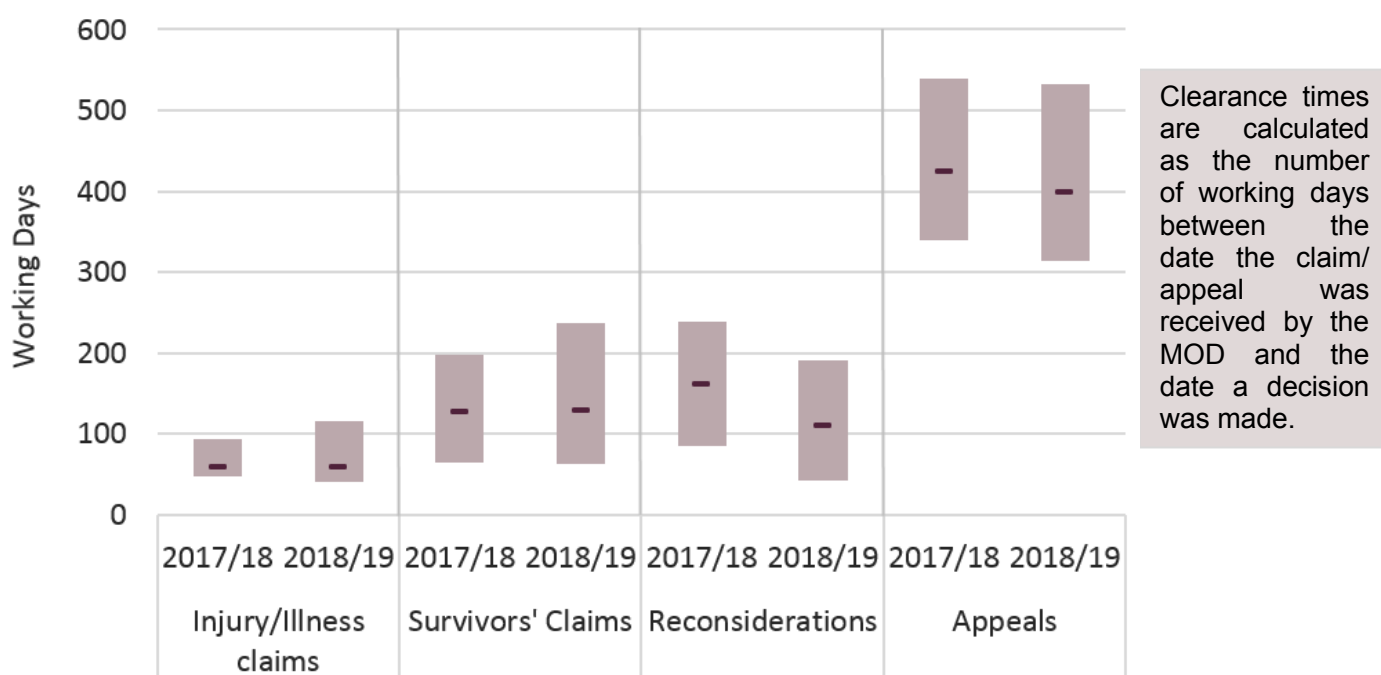
Survivors' claims were cleared, on average, within **129 working days (7 months)**

Reconsiderations were cleared, on average, within **110 working days (6 months)**

Appeals took the longest average time to clear (**399 working days or up to 20 months**), however it should be noted that the MOD have no control over the length of time it takes for a decision to be made as appeal tribunals are independent.

Figure 3: AFCS clearance times, by claim type and financial year¹, median average working days, upper and lower quartiles

¹ 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019



Source: Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

1. By financial year in which claims were cleared

(Tables 6, 7, 8 and 9, Annexes A and B)

Source: Compensation and Pension System

Clearance times (cont.)

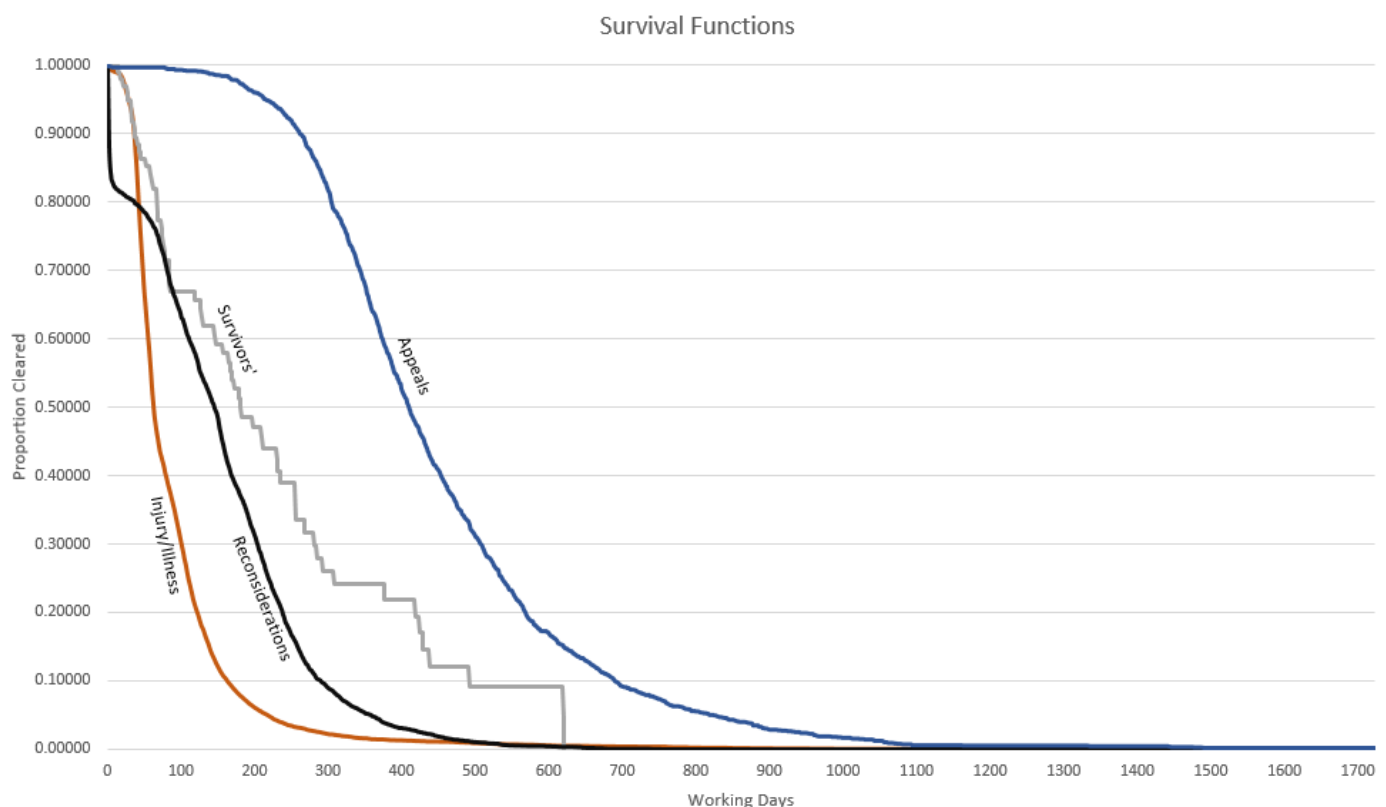
The range of clearance times for survivors' claims was wider than for injury/illness claims, due to the processes involved, e.g. there were often delays in processing claims while evidence of financial dependency was gathered and relationship statuses were checked.

Appeals cleared in 2017/18 and 2018/19 took on average over 400 working days (over 20 months) to clear and had a wider range of clearance times than other claim types. This is due to the complexity of the process. AFCS appeals are heard at an independent Pension Appeal Tribunal (PAT) and the MOD has no control over the length of time it takes for evidence to be gathered or a decision to be made. For further information on the Pension Appeal Tribunal process, please see the Background Quality Report.

Survival analysis was conducted on all injury/illness claims, survivors' claims, reconsiderations and reviews cleared on or after 1 April 2017, plus the 2,667 claims that were pending as at 31 March 2019. This type of analysis allows prediction of how long it takes for each type of claim to reach a completed stage using previously completed data. Analysis showed that appeals take significantly longer than other claim types to clear, whilst injury/illness claims take significantly less time to clear than other claim types. Taking pending claims into account, injury/illness claims will be resolved, on average, after 63 working days, whereas appeals are anticipated to take up to 410 working days.

Figure 4: Survival analysis, presenting the predicted number of working days at which 25%, 50% and 75% of claims will be cleared

1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019



Source: Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Latest injury/illness claim outcomes

This section provides summary statistics on the latest outcome of all injury/illness claims registered under the AFCS as at 31 March 2019, and trends over time.

Note that as at 31 March 2019 there were 2,634 pending injury/illness claims (of which, 2,592 claims were registered during 2018/19). Therefore, **figures are provisional** and will change in the future as these claims are cleared.

As over one quarter (28%) of all claims registered in 2018/19 were still pending as at 31 March 2019, the key findings on this page focus on the outcomes of all claims registered under the AFCS since the start of the scheme.

As at 31 March 2019;

87,991 Injury / illness claims have been cleared under the AFCS, of which:

Over half (55%^P) have been awarded a lump sum only payment (48,566^P) for a less serious injury / illness.

4%^P have been awarded a lump sum payment and GIP (3,321^P) for a more serious injury / illness.

13%^P have been accepted but with no award (11,176^P).

Over a quarter (28%^P) have been rejected (24,928^P).

Awarded Lump Sum only: An immediate one-off lump sum payment compensating for a less severe injury/illness not expected to have any significant permanent effects on the claimant's future earning capacity. Lump sum only awards are made at tariff levels 12-15.

Awarded Lump Sum plus GIP: In addition to a lump sum payment, an ongoing Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) is awarded for a more serious injury/illness (awarded at tariff levels 1-11). A GIP is payable for life, to recognise future loss of earning capacity, with the first payment made once the claimant has left service (following an in-Service claim), or from date of claim clearance (following a post-Service claim). All GIP recipients are veterans.

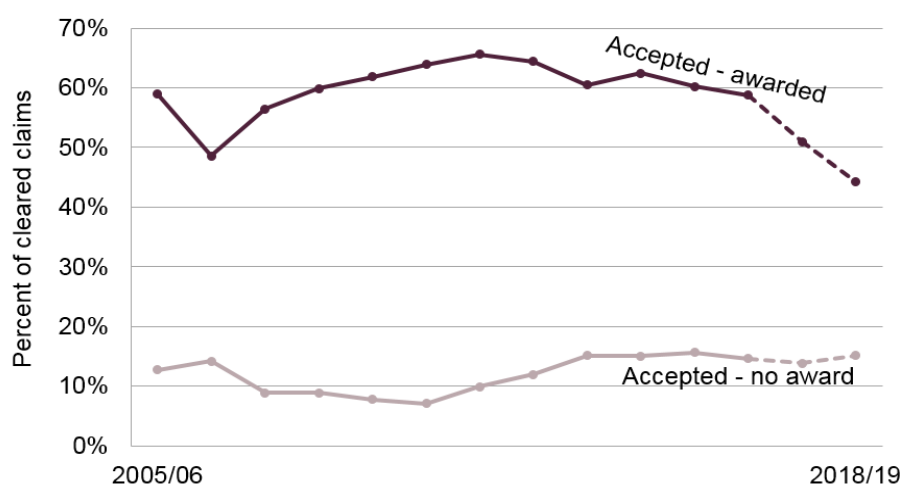
Accepted - No Award: Service-attributable injury/illness isn't severe enough to be awarded a tariff level and therefore no financial compensation is awarded.

Rejected: Claimed injury/illness is found not to be attributable to Service.

See Background Quality Report for full definition of the AFCS tariff levels.

Figure 5: Accepted injury/illness AFCS claims by outcome and financial year¹, percentages^P

6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019



Source: Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

1. By financial year in which claims were cleared

^P Due to pending cases, the figures for the 2017/18 and the 2018/19 financial years are provisional and marked as '-'

Figure 5 shows that the proportion of cleared injury/illness claims awarded compensation have fallen over the past five years, whilst the proportion of rejected claims have increased and the proportion of accepted but not awarded claims have remained broadly similar over the same time period (around 15%). Please note that the percentages for the 2017/18 and the 2018/19 financial years may change as the pending claims are cleared.

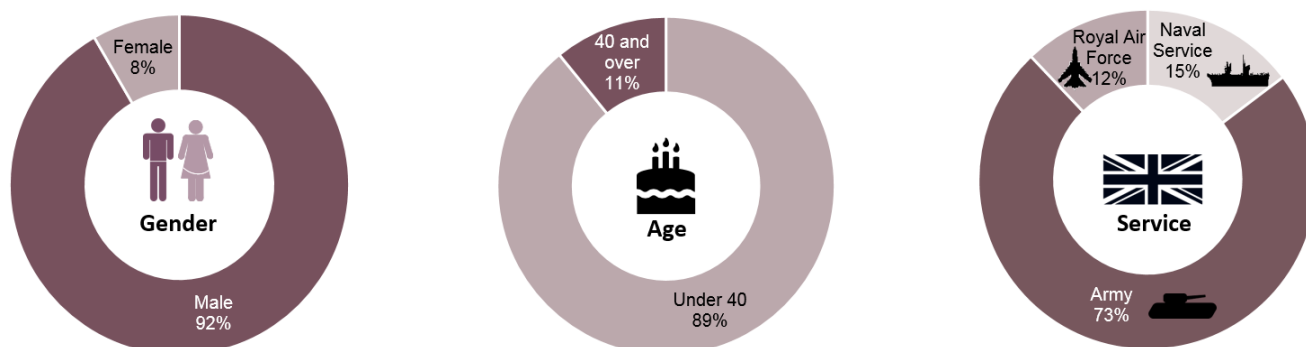
(Table 2, Annexes A and B)

Source: Compensation and Pension System

Demographics of awarded injury/illness claimants

This section presents a demographic breakdown of all awarded injury/illness claimants between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2019.

Figure 6: Gender, age and Service breakdowns of awarded injury/illness claimants, percentages^P
6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019



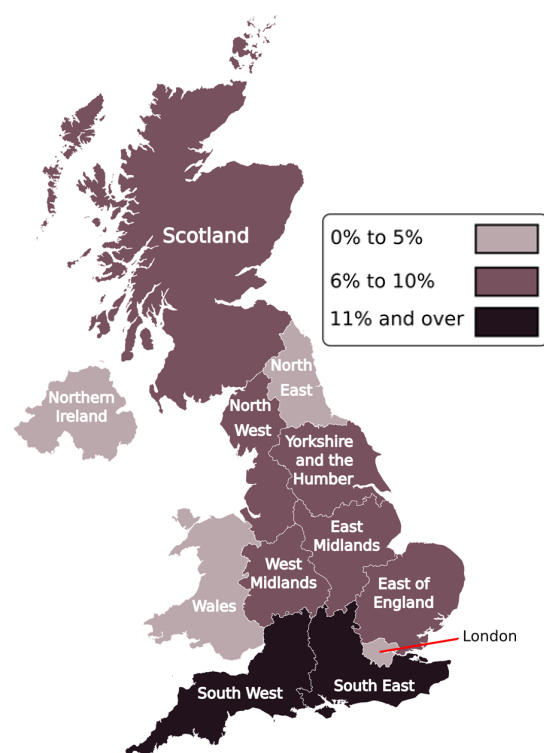
Source: Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

^P As at 31 March 2019 there were 2,634 pending injury/illness claims. Therefore, figures are provisional and will change in the future as these claims are cleared.

The proportions of awarded AFCS claimants who were male (92%) and/or aged under 40 (89%) were broadly in line with the gender and age profile of the UK Regular Armed Forces as at 1 April 2019⁵ (89% and 81% respectively). Since the scheme began on 6 April 2005, almost three-quarters (73%) of all injury/illness claims were registered by serving UK Armed Forces personnel, so it is to be expected that the demographic profile of those awarded compensation may be similar to that of the UK Regular Armed Forces.

However, the percentage of awarded serving and ex-serving Army claimants (73%) was higher than the percentage of Army personnel serving in the UK Regular Armed Forces as at 1 April 2019⁶ (55%). These findings replicate recent MOD Health and Safety Statistics⁷ which showed that Army personnel were at significantly higher risk of reporting injury and ill health incidents than personnel in the Naval Service and RAF.

Figure 7: Heat map of location of awarded AFCS injury/illness claimants by UK region, percentages^P
6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019



The proportion of awarded AFCS claimants based in the South East or the South West of England (38%) was lower than the 51% of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel based in the same regions as at 1 April 2019⁸.

Please note that 8% of successful AFCS injury/illness claimants were either residing overseas, were considered 'Other UK' (includes Isle of Man and Channel Islands) or 'UK Unknown' (includes those with a UK address at the time of initial claim but it was not possible to assign the address to a region), or their address information was incomplete so it was not possible to assign the address to a country or region.

^P As at 31 March 2019 there were 2,634 pending injury/illness claims. Therefore, figures are provisional and will change in the future as these claims are cleared.

(Tables 2 and 14, Annexes A and B)

Source: Compensation and Pension System

Injury/illness awarded conditions

This section presents a summary of all injuries/illnesses awarded under the AFCS. Note that the underlying data in this section and Annexes A and B have been rounded to the nearest five to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. Please see the methodology section and the Background Quality Report for further detail.

As at 31 March 2019;

72,380 injuries / illnesses had been awarded compensation, following 51,887 successful claims. Claimants can apply for compensation for multiple conditions within one claim.

6% of all awarded conditions were severe enough to attract a GIP (4,585).

Service-attributable injuries / illnesses are awarded under the AFCS in line with one of **nine tariff of injury tables**:

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

Table 9 - Musculoskeletal Disorders.

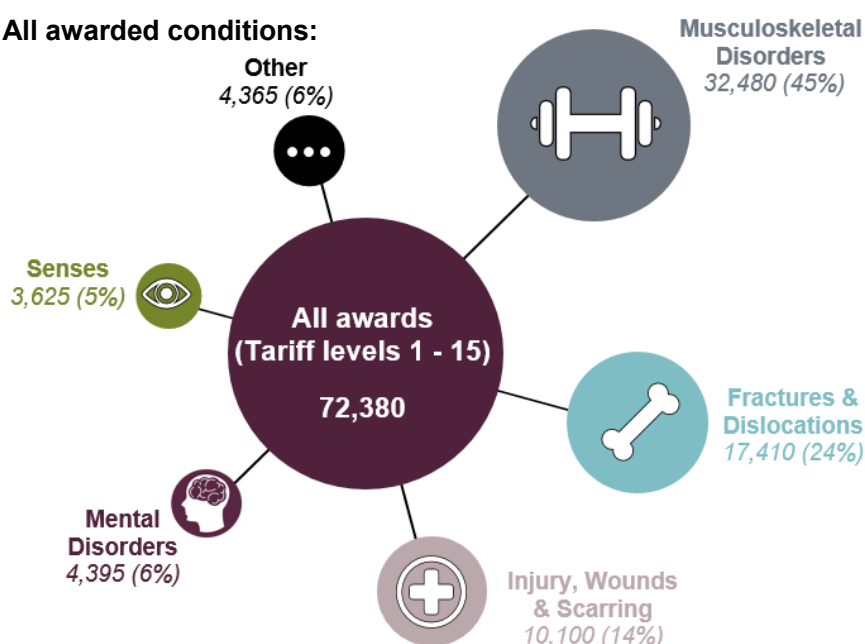
The full list of tariff of injury tables can be found online:

<http://www.infolaw.co.uk/mod/docs/AFCS-2016-05-31.pdf>

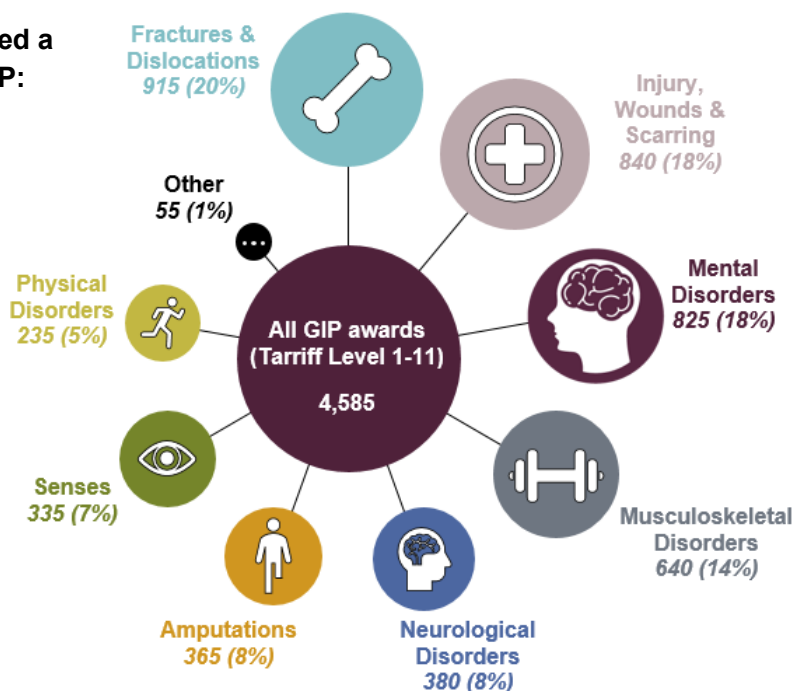
Figure 8: Most common tariff of injuries awarded under the UK AFCS, numbers and percentages

6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019

All awarded conditions:



Conditions awarded a lump sum plus GIP:



(Table 13, Annexes A and B)

Source: Compensation and Pension System

Injury/illness awarded conditions (cont.)

Since the start of the scheme, there were 72,380 awarded conditions following 51,887 successful claims.

Of all conditions awarded:



45%

were
Musculoskeletal
Disorders (MSK)



24%

were
Fractures &
Dislocations

These findings were expected since MSK disorders and injuries are the most common causes of medical discharge from the UK Regular Armed Forces⁹.

However, MSK disorders were not the most common tariff of injury awarded under qualification for a GIP. Figure 8 shows that MSK constitutes 45% of all awarded conditions, but only 14% of GIP awards. This suggests that whilst MSK disorders are the most prevalent Service-attributable condition, the majority of recipients are often not expected to experience a significant loss of earning capacity.

The proportion of awarded claims for MSK have increased year-on-year since the scheme began, from 26% in 2006/07 to 58% in 2018/19.

Mental disorders made up only a small percentage of all awards, but were much more prevalent for more serious conditions which attracted a GIP. This reflects the long term, complex nature of mental disorders, and their impact on claimants' earning capacity in the future.



6%
Of all conditions
awarded

Compared
with

18%
Of all GIP
awards

The proportion of awarded claims for mental disorders have increased year-on-year since the scheme began, from 3% in 2006/07 to 10% in 2018/19.

Additionally, there is a high volume of external interest in AFCS awards for the following specific conditions:



Non-Freezing Cold Injury (NFCI):

2,190

Total lump sum awards
(40 with an additional
GIP award)



Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL):

2,675

Total lump sum awards
(195 with an additional
GIP award)



Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):

3,370

Total lump sum awards
(680 with an additional
GIP award)

Note that it was not possible to accurately determine the numbers of claims awarded under the AFCS for PTSD. Claimants awarded under the Mental Disorders tariff of injury who claimed for PTSD have been identified, though successful claimants may have been awarded for a different mental disorder.

Recipients of Guaranteed Income Payments

This section presents further detail on veterans in receipt of a Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) for more severe injury or illnesses, and those in receipt of the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP), as at 31 March 2019. For more information on GIPs and the AFIP please see accompanying Background Quality Report.

As at 31 March 2019, **2,898 veterans were in receipt of a GIP** following an injury/illness claim.

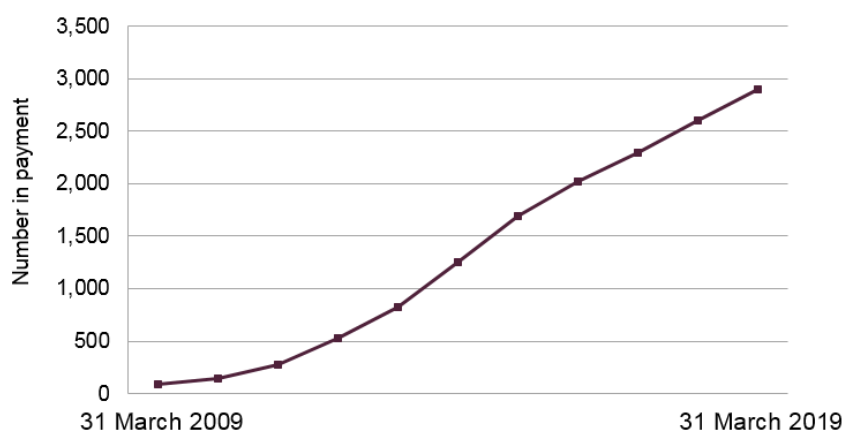
This is lower than the total number of GIP awards made since the start of the scheme (3,321) for several reasons:

- A veteran may be in receipt of a GIP following multiple successful claims under the AFCS (the amount received will account for multiple awards but claimants will be counted once).
- In-Service claimants awarded a GIP who were still in Service will not begin to receive payment until they have left Service.
- A previous GIP recipient has ceased to receive payment, e.g. due to death or legal reasons.

In addition to a lump sum payment, an ongoing Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) is awarded for a more serious injury/illness (awarded at tariff levels 1-11). A GIP is payable for life, to recognise future loss of earning capacity, with the first payment made once the claimant has left service (following an in-Service claim), or from date of claim clearance (following a post-Service claim). All GIP recipients are veterans.

Figure 9: UK Armed Forces Veterans in receipt of a Guaranteed Income Payment, by financial year¹

As at 31 March 2009 to as at 31 March 2019²



1. This figure does not include deferred GIPs.

2. From January 2009 there was a change in the source of data regarding GIPs. Data prior to this date is incomplete.

Since 31 March 2009, the number of ex-Service personnel in receipt of a GIP has increased year on year. This is due to the cumulative effect of new veterans starting to receive their GIP each year and those awarded in previous years continuing to receive it.

Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)

As at 31 March 2019, there were 2,898 veterans in receipt of a GIP, of which 1,105 were also identified as being in receipt of the AFIP. There are a number of reasons why personnel may not be receiving the AFIP:

- The AFCS GIP recipient was not eligible to receive an AFIP.
- An AFIP eligible claimant may have opted to continue to receive the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- The GIP award was made recently and therefore the eligible claimant's AFIP payment was still being processed.
- The MOD has had a non-response from the eligible claimant to determine whether they wish to receive the AFIP.

Service personnel awarded a GIP at 50% or above (Tariff Bands A-C) are eligible to apply for additional financial support via the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). The AFIP was introduced on 8 April 2013 and is a benefit to help with the extra costs of long-term health conditions or disability. More information about AFIPs can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/faq-on-the-armed-forces-independence-payment>

AFCS awards to those deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan

This section presents a summary of all awarded AFCS claimants who have previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan, since the MOD is frequently asked to provide this information.

Of the 42,641 people awarded compensation for an injury/illness caused by Service as at 31 March 2019, a total of 26,056 had deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan prior to their claim. Of these:

- 4,923 individuals had deployed on Operations in Iraq only prior to the registered date of their claim.
- 12,509 individuals had deployed on Operations in Afghanistan only prior to the registered date of their claim.
- 8,624 individuals had deployed on Operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan prior to the registered date of their claim.

For more information on those deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan please see accompanying Background Quality Report.

It is important to note that the AFCS attributes injury/illness to Service and not a particular event during a Service person's career. Therefore it is not possible to attribute AFCS claims/awards to a specific deployment and **these figures are likely to include individuals awarded compensation for an injury/illness that did not occur as a result of their deployment**, even though they had deployed at some previous point in time prior to registering their claim.

Note that the number of successful individuals who deployed to Iraq only prior to registering their AFCS claim has reduced compared to previous reporting. This is a result of some individuals previously not being correctly identified as having been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. See Background Quality Report for more details.

Latest survivors' claim outcomes

This section provides summary statistics on the latest outcome of all survivors' claims registered under the AFCS as at 31 March 2019, and trends over time.

Note that as at 31 March 2019 there were 33 pending survivors' claims. Therefore **figures are provisional** and will change in the future as these claims are cleared.

In line with JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, outcome for claims registered in 2017/18 and 2018/19 have been suppressed and therefore these key findings focus on the outcomes of all initial claims registered since the start of the scheme. See 'Further Information' section for details on statistical disclosure control.

As at 31 March 2019;

955 Survivors' claims^P have been cleared under the AFCS, of which:

40%^P have been awarded a Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payment (384^P).

60%^P have been rejected (571^P).

Awarded Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP):

If a death is found to be attributable to Service, the eligible partner/spouse of the deceased will receive a SGIP, paid to provide financial support and to recognise the loss of the deceased partner's earnings. The amount paid is increased in line with inflation each year and is paid for life.

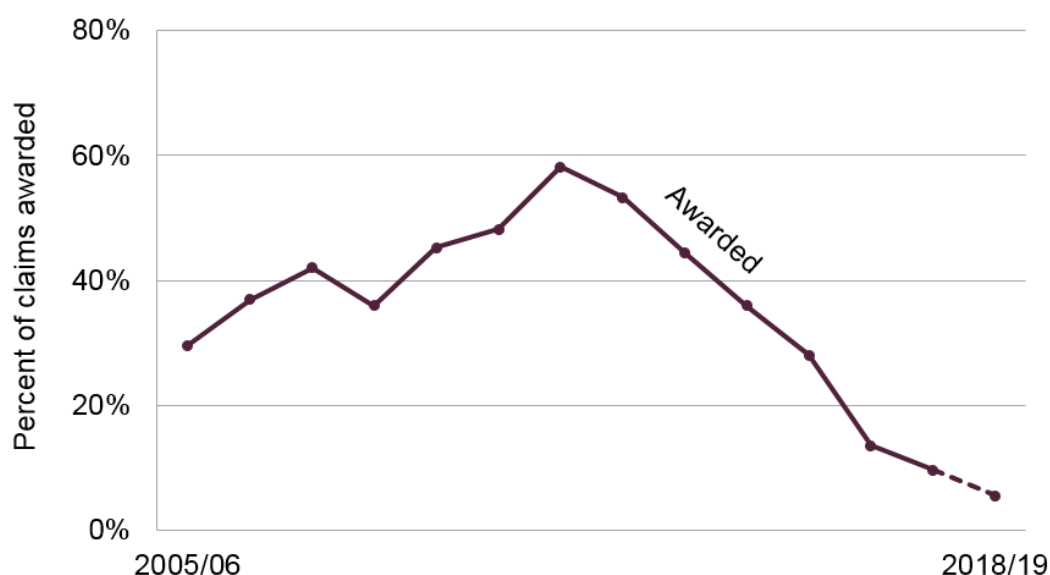
Those in receipt of a SGIP may claim for an additional child payment where their child(ren) meet the eligibility criteria.

Rejected: Death was found not to be attributable to Service.

A survivors' claim is automatically generated following a death in Service, regardless of the cause of death, where death occurred on or after 6 April 2005, regardless of whether the death was caused by Service. This may partly account for the lower success rate compared with other claim types.

Figure 10: Awarded AFCS survivors' claims, by financial year¹, percentages^P

6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019



¹. By financial year in which claims were registered

^P As at 31 March 2019 there were 33 pending survivors' claims. Therefore figures are provisional and will change in the future as these claims are cleared.

Since the start of the scheme, the proportion of awarded survivors' claims have fluctuated, reflecting the change in operational tempo over time. Figure 10 shows that the proportion of awarded survivors' claims was highest between 2009/10 and 2013/14, a time when there were a high volume of military deaths due to operations in Iraq (which ended on 22 May 2011) and Afghanistan (which ended on 12 December 2014). The proportion of awarded survivors' claims fell to its lowest level in 2018/19.

Survivors' payments

This section presents further detail on spouses awarded a Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) and child payments (CP) with summary statistics on spouse and child recipients as at 31 March 2019.

An awarded survivors' claim may result in more than one payment e.g. a spouse GIP and one or more child payments. For further information on survivors' GIPs, please see accompanying Background Quality Report.

As at 31 March 2019, there were:



The term 'spouse' is used in this section to refer to spouses and eligible partners in receipt of a survivors' GIP.

Of the 307 spouses in receipt of a SGIP:

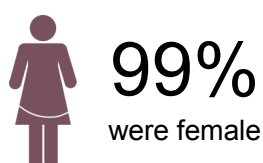
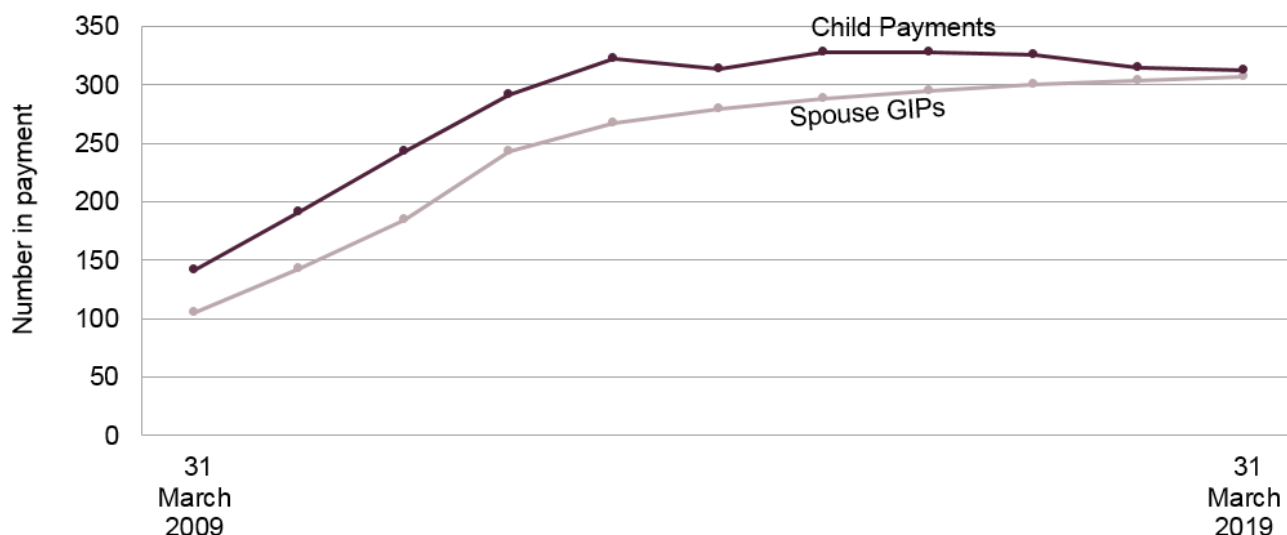


Figure 11: Eligible spouses and children in receipt of a Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) or Child Payment, as at financial year end, numbers

As at 31 March 2009 to as at 31 March 2019¹



1. From January 2009 there was a change in the source of data regarding GIPs. Data prior to this date is incomplete.

The number of survivors' GIPs and child payments in payment increased over time between 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2013. This was at a time when there was high operational tempo in Iraq and Afghanistan resulting in higher numbers of Service related deaths⁴. Since 31 March 2013, the number of SGIPs in payment increased at a slower rate. This reflected the reduced operational tempo leading to a reduction in the number of Service personnel who died each year, and a reduction in SGIP claims and awards.

Financial amounts paid out under the AFCS

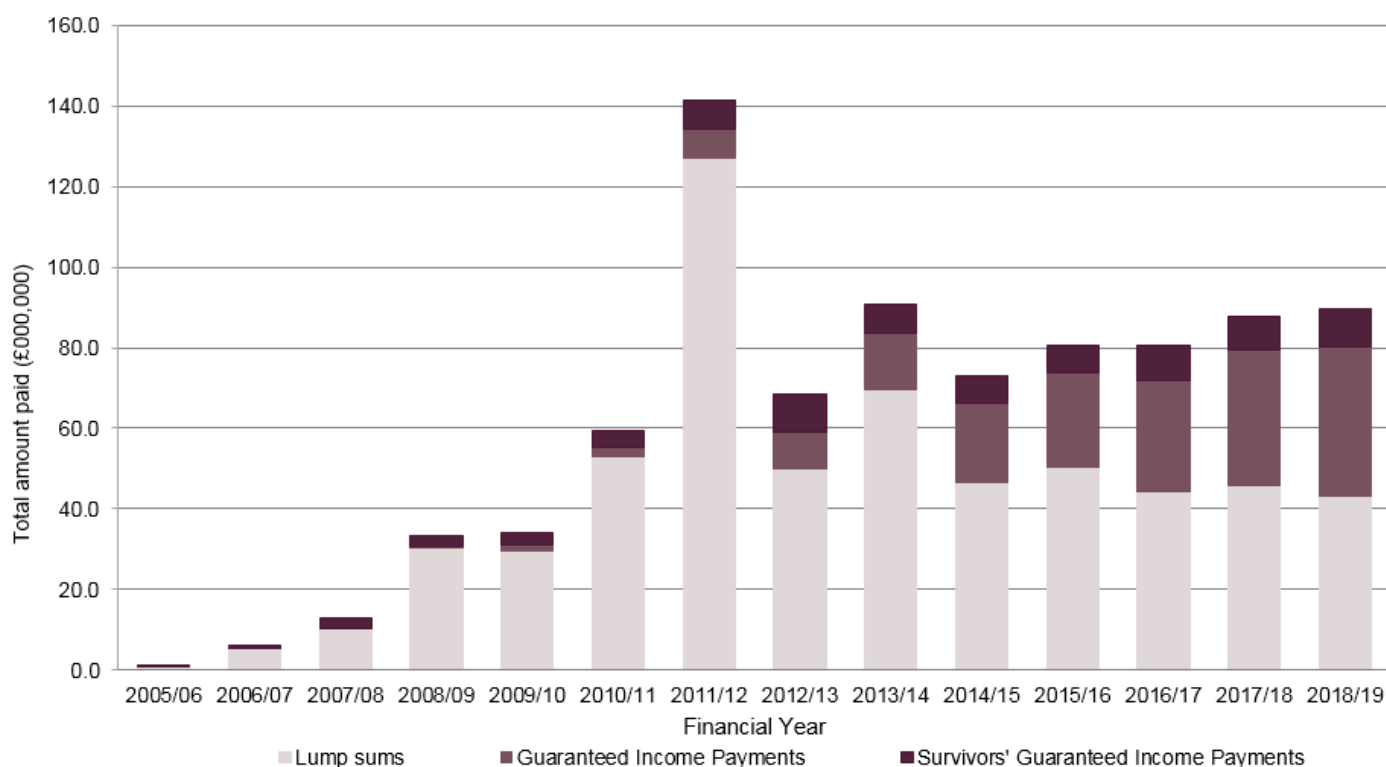
This section provides information on the financial amounts that have been paid out under the AFCS since the scheme began on 6 April 2005.

As at 31 March 2019;

Over £859M^P has been paid out in compensation under the scheme. Of which:

- Over £606M^P was paid out in lump sum payments.
- Over £175M^P was paid out Guaranteed Income Payments (GIPs).
- Over £77M^P was paid out in Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payments (SGIPs).

Figure 12: AFCS expenditure, by type of payment and financial year, £^P
6 April 2005 to 31 March 2019



^P Accounts for the 2018/19 financial year are pending an audit and may change in future. As such, these figures are marked provisional.

The total amount paid out in lump sum payments during 2011/12 was higher than other financial years (over £126M). This was primarily due to additional payments made following the Lord Boyce Review, whereby all previous lump sum awards were uplifted and back-payments were made. Pre-and-post Lord Boyce review tariff awards can be found in the Background Quality Report. The same increase in total amounts paid out in lump sum payments has not been seen in the 2018/19 financial year, despite the implementation of the Quinquennial Review (QQR) recommendations on 9 April 2018. The increase in tariff amounts recommended by the QQR were intended for new claimants only; previous lump sum awards have not been uplifted.

The smaller peak in 2013/14 was driven by an increase in the number of cleared claims (where a decision was made) due to additional resources allocated to AFCS workloads to clear a backlog of cases following the Lord Boyce Review.

The annual amounts paid out in GIPs increased year-on-year. This was expected as the amounts paid each year represent all ongoing cumulative payments and not just those awarded in each year.

Data, definitions and methods

This section provides a brief summary of the methodology and data sources. More detailed information is available in the Background Quality Report.

Data Sources

Most of the information presented within this Statistical Bulletin was sourced from AFCS data held on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS), managed by DBS Veterans UK who are responsible for administering the scheme. DBS Veterans UK are responsible for ensuring the quality of the data supplied to Defence Statistics.

Defence Statistics receive quarterly datasets from the DBS Veterans UK finance team which were used to report on recipients of Guaranteed Income Payments. Information on the overall financial amounts paid out under the AFCS were also sourced from the Finance Team.

Information on those in receipt of the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) are recorded by Veterans UK in an excel spreadsheet. These data were used to provide the number of individuals in receipt of AFIP.

Deployment data were used to determine those awarded under the AFCS that have previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan. Defence Statistics maintains a database of individual deployment records from November 2001. Data prior to April 2007 was derived from the single Services Operation Location tracking (OPLOC) systems and data since April 2007 is obtained from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. The data covers deployments on Op TELIC (2003-2009) and Op VERITAS/Op HERRICK (2001-2014).

Data Coverage

The data presented include all regular and reservist personnel, veterans and dependants who have claimed for compensation under the AFCS for any injury/illness/death caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005.

Although the figures presented include all claims registered during the reported time period, the figures do not represent all individuals who have sustained a Service-related injury/illness or who have died during that time. There can be a time lag between an individual's injury/illness and the date they make a claim. Individuals have up to seven years to make an injury/illness claim from the date of their initial injury/diagnosis. There are some exceptions to this such as late-onset illnesses. Claims for a late-onset illness can be made at any time after the event to which it relates, as long as it is done within three years of seeking medical advice. Families have up to three years to make a claim as a result of a death post-Service.

This report presents claim outcomes based on the latest information held for each claim as at 31 March 2019.

Please note that some information on the outcomes of appeals made under the AFCS are not recorded on the CAPS and was therefore not presented in this report. All registered appeals are recorded on the CAPS, however only outcomes at the first stage of the appeal process (First Tier Tribunal) are captured. Information on appeals that progress to further stages (e.g. Upper Tier Tribunal) are dealt with offline. The MOD are investigating the feasibility of including this information in future reports.

Methodology changes

Latest claim outcome

Statistical Bulletins prior to June 2017 (presenting AFCS claim outcomes as at 31 March 2017) presented injury/illness and survivors' claim outcomes based on initial outcome only, which did not account for any changes in claim outcomes following reconsiderations, appeals and/or reviews. For Statistical Bulletins from and including June 2017, the methodology was amended to enable the latest claim outcome for all claims to be derived. Historical figures were revised using the new methodology. Further details on this methodology change are presented in the accompanying Background Quality Report.

Data, definitions and methods (cont.)

Reconsiderations, appeals and reviews

In this bulletin (presenting AFCS claim outcomes as at 31 March 2019), two methodology changes were made to Tables 3, 4 and 5 (presenting outcomes for reconsiderations, appeals and reviews) in the accompanying Annexes A and B:

- The outcomes of reconsiderations, appeals and reviews were recategorised following consultation with DBS Veterans UK.
- Registered injury/illness reconsiderations, appeals and reviews will no longer be split into 'In-Service' or 'Post-Service' events based on the date on which the initial injury/illness claim was registered, but on the date the specific event (the reconsideration, appeal or review) had been registered.

The historical figures presented in Table 3 (reconsideration outcomes), Table 4 (appeal outcomes) and Table 5 (review outcomes) of Annexes A and B have been revised and supersede any previously published figures. Please see the Background Quality Report for further details.

Calculation of claim clearance times

In Statistical Bulletins prior to the June 2018 publication, clearance times were calculated as the number of working days between the date the claim was registered on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) and the date the claim was cleared. However, these clearance times did not include any time lag between the claim being received by the DBS Veterans UK and the details being entered onto the CAPS. This time lag could be considerable in complex cases where detailed assessments had to be conducted initially to determine whether the claim should be formally assessed under the AFCS or the WPS. In the June 2018 and June 2019 bulletins, clearance times have been calculated as the number of working days between the date the claim was received by DBS Veterans UK and the date the claim was cleared. Full details of this methodology change can be found in the accompanying Background Quality Report.

It was not possible to revise the historic time series for clearance times as the date of claim receipt has not been entered retrospectively on the CAPS. Therefore, Tables 6-9 in Annexes A and B present a break in the time series from 2017/18 to reflect the change in methodology.

In this bulletin, an error in Defence Statistics' clearance time calculations for reconsiderations and appeals was identified. During the production of the 2018/19 statistics it was discovered that survivors' reconsiderations and appeals were not included in clearance times calculations. This error has now been rectified. Historical clearance times were also updated with revisions highlighted within Tables 8 and 9 of Annexes A and B. The information presented within the 2018/19 National Statistic supersedes information presented in previous Statistical Bulletins. A note has been included within the report to highlight this to the reader.

Strengths and weaknesses of the data presented in this report

This report combines data captured across a variety of MOD databases to present a single source of information on claims, awards and payments made under the AFCS. These statistics can be used by MOD to monitor trends over time.

The key strength of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme data is the efficient methods adopted to capture AFCS data extracts. Validation checks are undertaken to ensure that the information provided in the reports are accurate.

The key weakness is that Defence Statistics have to rely on the level of detail that DBS Veterans UK manually enter for each claim. There are no other data sources that can be used to validate the information provided to Defence Statistics. Furthermore, a great deal of the information is recorded in free text fields.

More detailed information on the data, definitions and methods used to create this report can be found in the Background Quality Report.

Glossary

Appeal: If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of their claim they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.

Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS): Compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve forces. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death attributable to Service where the cause occurred on or after 6 April 2005.

Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP): On 8 April 2013 the MOD, in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), introduced a new benefit called the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). The AFIP is a simplification of the financial support available for members of the Armed Forces who have been seriously injured as a result of Service since 6 April 2005. The AFIP provides eligible recipients with on-going payments to help with the additional costs associated with their injuries.

Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS): Pension available to members of the Regular Armed Forces who have served for a minimum of two years:

AFPS 75: Introduced in 1975 and closed to new members from 6 April 2005. Pension benefits are based on rank and time served;

AFPS 05: Introduced on 6 April 2005. Pension benefits are based on time served and final salary.

AFPS 15: Introduced on 1 April 2015. Pensions are calculated using a system called Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE). For more information on how CARE works please go to:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419740/20150312_AFPS15_YPSE_FINAL.pdf

Child Payment (CP): A taxable payment designed to compensate eligible child(ren) for loss of financial support following the death of their parent, guardian or person on whom they were financially dependent as a result of Service.

Claim: The term 'claim' is used to refer to both injury/illness claims raised by a claimant (as well as medical discharge) and death-in-service cases which are automatically referred to DBS Veterans UK for consideration.

Cleared claim: A claim is classed as cleared when DBS Veterans UK issue a letter to the claimant informing them of the outcome of their claim, reconsideration and/or appeal.

Compensation and Pension System (CAPS): Administrative system used to capture electronic information on the AFPS and AFCS.

Guaranteed Income Payment: A Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) is payable when an award has been made and the injury or illness is awarded at tariff levels 1 to 11.

Injury/illness claim: Claims made by serving or former members of the Armed Forces for an injury or illness caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005. They include in-Service claims, medical discharge claims and post-Service claims.

Inter-quartile range: The inter-quartile range is the range in which the middle 50% of the data points fall (i.e. the distance between the lower and upper quartile). The longer the inter-quartile range, the wider the spread of data.

Lump Sum Award: A tax-free lump sum payment is paid to a Service or ex-Service person as compensation for pain and suffering for an injury or illness that is predominantly caused or made worse by Service.

Median average: The median of a finite list of numbers can be found by arranging all the values from lowest to highest and picking the middle value.

Medical Discharge Claim: Personnel medically discharged from Service will have a claim automatically registered under the AFCS if they meet certain criteria. Please see the Background Quality Report for more information.

Glossary (cont.)

Non-genuine AFCS cases: Include 'spanning' and 'treat as never made' cases. Spanning cases are claims considered first for entitlement under the AFCS, but passed to the War Pension Scheme where the cause of injury or onset of illness occurred prior to 6 April 2005. Treat as never made cases are those that have been registered under the Scheme but are later abandoned either due to the claim being entered in error or the claimant not proceeding with the claim.

Pensions Appeal Tribunal (PAT): The PAT hears appeals from Servicemen and Servicewomen who have disagreed with the decision made by DBS Veterans UK on the outcome of their claim.

Reconsideration: If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of their claim they may ask for DBS Veterans UK to reconsider their claim.

Registered claim: A claim is classed as registered when DBS Veterans UK begin a workflow on the CAPS for a claim.

Reviews: Collective title for specific re-evaluations that can be made on a claim. These include:

Interim reviews: In claims where the disorder is not in a steady state, prognosis is uncertain or treatment is ongoing or yet to begin, a temporary award may be given at the most likely tariff level. The claim will then be reviewed within 2 years.

Exceptional reviews: Where an injury or illness has unexpectedly and exceptionally worsened, or caused a further injury to develop (within 10 years of original decision)

Ignorance/mistake reviews: In the event of a mistake, either by DBS Veterans UK or the claimant, the award will be subject to change due to the amended information.

Service termination review: When a claim is awarded while the claimant is still serving but the injury/illness has become worse or caused another injury to develop, a review of the claim can be made up to a year after leaving Service.

Final review: Where more than ten years have passed since the AFCS decision, a final review of an AFCS award can be requested. It is anticipated that there will be exceptionally rare occasions where an AFCS award is found to be inappropriate beyond the ten-year point, given the number of review points available before the ten-year point and the basis of the AFCS scheme which makes final decisions only once prognosis is clear.

Spanning cases: Spanning cases are claims considered first for entitlement under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, but passed to the War Pension Scheme where the cause or injury occurred prior to 6 April 2005.

Survival Analysis: Analyses the time duration until the event of interest occurs. In this case, that is when a registered claim has been cleared.

Survivors' claim: Claims made by surviving dependents of former UK Armed Forces Personnel where death was caused by Service on or after 6 April 2005. They include death-in-Service claims, death-post-Service claims and additional child claims. One awarded survivors' claim may result in multiple payments (e.g. to a spouse and children).

Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payment: A Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP) is a taxable payment designed to compensate an individual for loss of financial support following the death of their partner/spouse/parent as a result of Service.

Tariff Levels: The AFCS has 15 tariff levels from 1 (most severe) to 15 (least severe). Each tariff level has a corresponding level of lump sum payment. A full summary of tariff levels can be found in the Background Quality Report.

Veterans UK: Veterans UK administer the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.

War Pension Scheme (WPS): No fault compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve force. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death caused or made worse by Service from the start of WW1 in 1914 to 5 April 2005. Personnel are only eligible to claim once they have left Service.

Working days: Any day in which legal business can be conducted. In this report, working days exclude Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

References

1. A full summary of the Lord Boyce Review can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-review-of-the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme>
2. A full summary of the Quinquennial Review can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme-quinquennial-review>
3. A full summary of the 'One Year On' report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quinquennial-review-of-the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme-one-year-on-report>
4. MOD Deaths in the UK Regular Armed Forces: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-deaths-in-service-statistics-index>
5. UK Armed Forces biannual diversity statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-index>
6. UK Armed Forces Quarterly Service Personnel Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/quarterly-service-personnel-statistics-index>
7. MOD Health and Safety Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-health-and-safety-statistics-index>
8. MOD annual location statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-annual-statistics-2019>
9. MOD Annual Medical Discharges in the UK Regular Armed Forces: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>

Further information

Symbols

~	Figure has been suppressed due to Statistical Disclosure Control
P	Provisional
r	Revised
u	Low reliability
Q1	1 April to 30 June
Q2	1 July to 30 September
Q3	1 October to 31 December
Q4	1 January to 31 March

Disclosure Control

In line with the directives of the JSP 200, disclosure control is conducted on all statistical information provided by the MOD to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. Within these statistics a risk of disclosure has been considered to be high where numbers presented are fewer than three. In cases where a risk of disclosure exists, one of two appropriate disclosure control methods have been applied:

Figures have been suppressed: In most cases where there may be a risk of disclosure, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, secondary suppression has been applied so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals or subtotals. In most cases the secondary suppression has been applied to the next smallest figures. However, in Table 14 in Annexes A and B, Northern Ireland figures were the next smallest after primary suppression of 'Other UK' in some financial years. Due to public interest in the location of Service personnel and veterans awarded compensation under the AFCS, the 'UK Unknown' figures had secondary suppression applied, since these figures were less useful to external users of these statistics.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five: In some cases where the suppression of information would result in larger numbers being 'hidden' as a result of secondary suppression and it has not been possible to group columns and/or rows, figures have been rounded to the nearest five. This method of suppression has been applied to the following 2018/19 Tables in Annexes A and B: 3, 4, 5, 13 and 22.

Revisions

The AFCS statistics are subject to routine revisions as the CAPS is a live data system and historic data may be amended on the CAPS between data extracts (see Background Quality Report for further information). Any revisions to historic data as a result of amended information on the CAPS can be identified by a revision marker ('r') and are only discussed if such revisions are considered to have impact on the findings.

The figures presented for the 2017/18 and the 2018/19 financial years (including totals for 'All years') are marked as provisional and may change if claims currently pending are later identified as 'non-genuine' AFCS cases. As such, these figures may reduce as the pending cases are cleared and should not be considered final. Financial information for the latest year are also provisional due to the accounts pending an audit and therefore may change in the future.

In addition to routine revisions there have been several revisions made to the data since the publication of the last Statistical Bulletin in June 2018 (covering the period 2005/06 to 2017/18), to improve accuracy of reporting. Full details of methodology changes are discussed within the 'Methodology' section of the Background Quality Report. However, in summary the following changes have been made:

- Corrections were made to the categorisation of reconsideration and review outcomes following consultation with DBS Veterans UK.
- Updated methodology so that in-Service and post-Service registered reviews, reconsiderations and appeals were determined based on the date on which they were registered.
- Corrections were made to the methodology used to calculate reconsideration and appeal clearance times, to incorporate such events registered by survivors.

All methodology changes have resulted in historical figures also being revised. Notes have been made on the affected tables in Annexes A and B and within the Statistical Bulletin to inform users that the figures presented within the 2018/19 statistics supersede any previously published figures.

Further information (cont.)

Scheme information

Further information on the WPS and other MOD compensation schemes can be found on the Gov.UK website:

WPS and AFCS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation>

Common law compensation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-law-claims-policy-division>

Contact Us

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<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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RAF Manpower	01494 496822	DefStrat-Stat-Air@mod.gov.uk
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