



Ministry of Defence

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Ministry of Defence
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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 18th February 2020, which was received by the MOD on 20th February 2020, requesting the following information:

- “1. I would like to know how many Scottish veterans have claimed a war pension for Gulf war related illnesses within the past 25yrs.
2. How many of the said veterans have successfully got the pension.
3. How many veterans have been refused on the grounds of Gulf war related illnesses?
4. How many of the said refusals have ended up at tribunal.
5. And how many have ended up at the upper tier tribunal.”

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. However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because to identify claims made by Scottish veterans for Gulf war related illnesses would require a manual search of individual claim files.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the MOD holds information on the following information:

All veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict who made a war pension claim between the end of the conflict in 1991 and 31 December 2016, where individuals reported that their injury or ill health was a result of their deployment to this conflict. Outcomes for these claimants (whether they were successful or unsuccessful) are also held as at 31 December 2016.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health