



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2019/10540

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails received on 11 September 2019 and 12 September 2019 where you asked (in follow-up to FOI2019/09042):

FOI2019/10540: "You stated that you have the total number of War pensions/Compensation Schemes of Gulf War vetrans that have been rejected/denied between 2003 and 2019...Please could you forward the figure that you have."

FOI2019/11090: "How many years between 91 and 2003 could you collate data for in respect of denied Gulf War pensions in 23.5 petsonnel hours whilst also staying within the £600 limit ?"

I am treating your correspondence as two independent requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Since the two requests are related to FOI2019/09042, responses to both FOIs have been provided in one letter.

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 by the MOD.

FOI2019/10540: There were 5,350 War Pension Scheme (WPS) claimants identified as having been deployed to the 1990/91 Gulf conflict, with subsequent successful and unsuccessful WPS claims cleared between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2019. Of these;

- 5,108 (95%) claimants were identified as having been successful, i.e. it was determined that they had sustained a Service-attributable injury/illness. Note that their injury/illness may not have been a result of their deployment to the Gulf conflict, but as a result of wider Service in the UK Armed Forces prior to 6 April 2005.
- 242 (5%) claimants were identified as having been rejected (or unsuccessful), i.e. it was determined that their injury/illness was not Service-attributable.

FOI2019/11090: It is not possible to narrow down the scope of your request to specific years. Archived electronic record can only be retrieved using National Insurance number and reviewed on an individual basis. As records are retrieved using National Insurance number, it is not possible to review in chronological order. Archived paper records are held in order in which they were archived, which is not necessarily in chronological order of date of WPS claim.

It is estimated that a maximum of 76 archived WPS records could be retrieved and reviewed, without exceeding the appropriate limit. Any records retrieved would be at random due to how they are held.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

The War Pension Scheme (WPS) provides no-fault compensation for all ex-service personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by Service from the start of the First World War in 1914 up until 5 April 2005. The WPS is managed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with all compensation claims administered by Defence Business Services (DBS) Veterans UK. Electronic WPS information is held on the War Pension Computer System (WPCS).

Defence Statistics publish an annual National Statistic on claims and awards under the WPS:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>

The latest update was published on 27 June 2019 (as at 31 March 2019).

Unsuccessful claimants: WPS claimants with a rejected first claim and no subsequent successful outcome. Unsuccessful claimants are those whose injury/illness was deemed not Service-attributable. Please note that some unsuccessful claimants as at 31 March 2019 may go on to become successful at a future date.

Successful claimants: WPS claimants deemed to have a service-attributable injury/illness. This includes those awarded an ongoing War Pension, those awarded a gratuity (one-off) lump-sum payment, and those where the Service-attributable injury/illness was not serious enough to be awarded monetary compensation. Successful claimants are those with either;

- A successful first claim, or
- An unsuccessful first claim, that went on to have a successful outcome, e.g. following appeal.

Claimants with both successful and unsuccessful claims during the specified period were reported as successful. Note that there were fewer than 10 cases.

Claims are determined as successful or unsuccessful following the five stages of claims consideration:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517104/HOCS_FOI_2016_02036_Attachment-War_Pension_Scheme_WPS_five_stages_of_claims_consideration.pdf

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

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