



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
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Ref: FOI2019/13475

20 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2019 requesting the following information on behalf of [REDACTED]

"We would be grateful if the following information could be provided to us:

1. The number of War Pension applications submitted on the grounds of skin cancer
2. The number of successful War Pension applications submitted on the grounds of skin cancer
3. The parameters of the War Pension awards for applications submitted on the grounds of skin cancer
4. The number of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme applications submitted on the grounds of skin cancer
5. The number of successful Armed Forces Compensation Scheme applications submitted On the grounds of skin cancer"

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

The Ministry of Defence requires further information in order to determine how to answer your request. In particular we need clarification on what you mean by "The parameters of the War Pension awards for applications submitted on the grounds of skin cancer".

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.

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

Claim information for no-fault compensation under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) for Service-attributable injury / illness prior to 6 April 2005. Note that electronic information is only reliably held for claims registered since 1 April 2003. Paper claim records may have to be manually searched to determine WPS claims for skin cancer prior to this date. WPS claims and awards for skin cancer can be identified by searching for relevant terms in a free-text field. Therefore, any figures supplied would be considered a minimum.

For information the MOD publishes annual Official Statistics on WPS claims and awards: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>.

Central electronic claim information for no-fault compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for Service-attributable injury / illness on or after 6 April 2005. AFCS claims and awards for skin cancer can be identified by searching for relevant terms in a free-text field. Note that AFCS claims for skin cancer does not mean that there has been a

formal diagnosis and successful claimants may have been awarded compensation for another condition. Therefore, any figures supplied would be treated as estimates.
For information the MOD publishes annual Official Statistics on AFCS claims and awards: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>.

Please note that if your clarification requires the manual search of WPS and / or AFCS paper claim records, then it may exceed the appropriate cost limit. If the appropriate cost limit is exceeded, we will provide advice on how you can reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

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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