

Ref: FOI2020/09844

28 September 2020

Dear Mr

Thank you for your email of 2 September 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

1.[Information request - 1] Does MOD/War Pensions recognise [Musculoskeletal Disorders and Injuries] and

1.1 [also as contributed by army service] [see attached leaflet on recruits] provide me with a copy of this confirmation if held

1.2 [if so which date of recognition

2. [Information request - 2] Does MOD/War Pensions Recognise [whole body hand arm vibration white finger] Provide me with a copy of this

Also

2.1 [info request 2 Recognise as contributed by army service] provide me with a copy of this confirmation if held

2.1 [info request 2 Recognise overlapping pre-existing condition related to the onset of whole body hand arm vibration white finger Recognise as contributed by army service from main condition] Provide me with a copy of this

Clarification Question 3:

*“Fibromyalgia is a disorder characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by **fatigue**, sleep, memory and mood issues. Researchers believe that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way your brain processes pain signals”*

*“**Fibromyalgia**, an **illness** characterized by chronic, widespread pain and tenderness, **Fibromyalgia** was formerly classified as an inflammatory musculoskeletal **disease** but is now considered to be an **illness** that primarily affects the central nervous system”.*

*America recognises fibromyalgia service connected? Gulf War Veterans who develop **fibromyalgia** do not have to prove a **connection** between their illnesses and **service** to be eligible to receive VA disability compensation.20 Mar 2020. **UK does not recognise Gulf War syndrome but civilian industrial injuries in relation to machinery and occupational and extraordinary punishment put on service bodies types of***

machines exposed to types of conditions exposed to also weather conditions contribute a factor which is far above health and safety recommendations.

3.[Information request –3] Does MOD/War Pensions Recognise[fibromyalgia inflammatory musculoskeletal disease] also

3.1[also as contributed by army service] please provide this information
3.2 [info request 3.2 Recognise overlapping pre-existing condition related to the onset of [whole body hand arm vibration white finger][fibromyalgia as an overlapping condition] Recognise as contributed by army service from main condition] Provide me with a copy of this information

Clarification question 4 Arthritis connected to military service

*After the completion of their **military service**, veterans over 40 were two times more likely to develop **arthritis**. Twenty-nine% of those surveyed were discharged from **service** due to **arthritis**. **Military** personnel injured by blasts and roadside bombs were often diagnosed with **arthritis** within two years of injury.*

Whole body arm vibration white finger onset to fibromyalgia are recognised diseases operating machinery in the UK military army bed since RL – MK track crane escalated forklifts various makes and type prolonged exposure above civilian timescales

4.[Information request – 4] Does MOD/War Pensions Recognise[Recognise to Arthritis connected to military service

4.1 [also as Contributed by army service] please provide this information
4.2Recognise overlapping pre-existing condition related to the onset of Arthritis in connection results of [whole body hand arm vibration white finger][fibromyalgia as an overlapping condition] Recognise as contributed by army service from main condition] Provide me with a copy of this information

5.[Information request – 5] if requests 1-4.2 not officially recognised please provide the information why the MoD do not recognise and are not falling in line with all other armed forces throughout the world

6. [Information request – 6] please provide copies of practices policies procedures legislation laws governing the procedure for challenging non-recognising of mentioned in FOI 1-4.2

7[information request – 7] please provide me copies of studies research enquiries held by the MoD in relation to statistics studies of vibration white finger whole-body vibration arthritis due to military life

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 whether it holds any information within the scope of your request. Your request seems to relate in the main to the conditions: Musculoskeletal Disorders, whole body hand arm vibration white finger, overlapping pre-existing condition related to the onset of whole body hand arm vibration white finger and Arthritis connected to military service, and asks whether the War Pension Scheme recognises them. However, we would like to know exactly what recorded data or information you require in regard to this. We would be grateful if you could be more specific with regard to the documents or data you are seeking to request.

It may help to explain that the War Pension Scheme (WPS) is a compensation scheme for veterans, for injury or illness which has been caused by or made worse by their service in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

The WPS compensates for any injury, illness or death which was caused by service before 6 April 2005.

There are 2 main types of WPS awards. Which one you get depends on the level of your disablement:

a gratuity is a lump sum payment for disablement less than 20%

a pension is an ongoing payment paid weekly or monthly for disablement more than 20%.

Further information on the rules of the scheme, how you can claim, or challenge decisions made, and the processes involved can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/war-pension-scheme-wps>

Once you have clarified your request advising the data you require in regard to points 1-5, I will be pleased to consider it again.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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,

Defence Business Services Secretariat