



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2020/09878 & FOI2020/09853

7 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 3 September 2020 requesting the following information:

FOI2020/09878

"I am writing to request the following information from Veterans UK in respect of the War Pension Scheme:

1. Of the 8441 disablement claims registered in 2019/20 (as reported in the War Pension Scheme Annual Statistics 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2020, published on 27 Aug 2020), how many were lodged by veterans i.e. those no longer serving?
2. Of the number of claims provided in the answer to Q1, how many were for mental disorders?"

FOI2020/09853

"I am writing to request the following information from Veterans UK in respect of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme:

1. Of the 8504 (provisional) claims registered in 2019/20 (as reported in the UK Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Annual Statistics 6 April 2005 to 31 March 2020, published on 25 Jun 2020), how many were lodged by veterans i.e. those no longer serving?
2. Of the number of claims provided in the answer to Q1, how many were for mental disorders?"

Due to the similar nature of the requests, they have been combined into a single response. I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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.

War Pension Scheme

Individuals are eligible to claim under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) if they are no longer serving in the Armed Forces and their claimed disablement arose before 6 April 2005. Therefore, all of the **8,441** disablement claims registered in 2019/20 were made by veterans.

Of the **8,441** disablement claims registered in 2019/20:

- **252** were first claims or further condition claims for mental disorders.

- **617** reviews of a previous disablement claim (deterioration claims, departmental reviews and conditional list reviews) followed a first claim for a mental disorder. Please note that individuals can claim for multiple injuries/illnesses under one disablement claim. In these cases, it is not possible to tell from the electronic WPS data held whether the review relates specifically to the mental disorder. Therefore, some of these 617 reviews may be related to another injury/illness claimed for at the time of the initial claim.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Of the **8,504** injury/illness claims registered in 2019/20 under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), **1,980** were claims registered after the claimant had left service (post service claims).

Please note, the conditions claimed are not available until the claim receives an outcome and therefore the value presented below should be treated as a minimum while pending claims are processed.

Of the **1,980** post service claims registered during 2019/20, **1,348** claims had an outcome as at 31 March 2020. Of these claims, **192** were for mental disorders.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

War Pension Scheme

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.

Figures provided are sourced from data stored on the War Pensions Computer System (WPCS).

Claims for mental disorders are recorded on the WPCS with a medical diagnosis code and also a free-text medical diagnosis description. This information is based on the medical evidence and diagnosis obtained from the GP once a claim has been registered with DBS Veterans UK.

The figures provided in this response were based on the following medical diagnosis codes for mental disorders (4000,4001,4002,4003,4004,4005,4006,4007,4008) and also a free-text search for the following terms: post traumatic stress, ptsd, post-traumatic stress, psych, phobia, phobic, depressed, mood, depression, depressive, adjustment, anxiety, panic, dysthymic, schizo, mania, paranoid, affective disorders, personality disorder, bi-polar, bi polar, stress disorder, body dysmorphic disorder, conversion disorder, cyclothymic disorder, delusional, dissociative, dream, identity disorder, mental disorder, nervous disorder, nightmare disorder, compulsive disorder, agoraphobia, substance abuse, substance use.

As conditions are sometimes spelt incorrectly it is possible that some claims for mental disorders have not been identified. Therefore, the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

Further information on the eligibility to claim, and the processing of WPS claims, can be found on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/war-pension-scheme/war-pension-scheme-what-you-need-to-know>

Defence Statistics Health publish statistics on claims and awards made under the WPS. The latest publication presents statistics as at 31 March 2020 and can be found on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death attributable to service that occurred on or after that date. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Pensions Scheme.

AFCS data is sourced from the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) which is administrated and managed by DBS Veterans UK.

Data were extracted from the CAPS as at 31 March 2020 to inform the latest published National Statistics, as published on the Gov.uk website on 25 June 2020:

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

The figures provided in this response for mental disorders were based on a free-text search for the following terms: anxiety and panic attacks, alcohol misuse, post traumatic stress, ptsd, post-traumatic stress, psych, phobia, phobic, depressed, mood, depression, depressive, adjustment, anxiety, panic, dysthymic, schizo, mania, paranoid, affective disorders, personality disorder, bi-polar, bi polar, stress disorder, body dysmorphic disorder, conversion disorder, cyclothymic disorder, delusional, dissociative, dream, identity disorder, mental disorder, nervous disorder, nightmare disorder, compulsive disorder, agoraphobia, substance abuse, substance use.

Claims were also included in the figure provided where an award was made under the 'mental disorders' tariff of injury table but where the claimed condition did not contain one of the above search terms.

As conditions are sometimes spelt incorrectly it is possible that some claims for mental disorders have not been identified. Therefore, the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

Please note there were a further 205 automatically raised medical discharge claims during 2019/20. These are automatically raised in advance of discharge date and have therefore not been included in the response.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk .

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health