



Ministry
of Defence

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13 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 October 2020 requesting the following information:

"We write to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- How many claims were made for melanoma each year under the War pension Scheme up until April 2005. Please list the number of cases per year group.
- How many melanoma claims that have been made during these time were ruled in favour of Applicant, please list per year group.
- How many cases for melanoma have been successful either at appeal or Tribunal, please list these per year group."

We emailed you on 6 October 2020 to make you aware that claims can also be made under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) post April 2005. You replied and asked for your request to be extended to include claims and appeals made to date, rather than up to 2005.

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.

Please note, section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with the Joint Service Publication 200 (JSP 200), in which numbers fewer than three are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Please note that electronic data covering WPS claims and appeals is only held from April 2003 onwards. Therefore all figures provided in this response cover the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2020 (the latest data currently available).

Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2020 there were **2,539** claims made under the WPS for melanoma. Of these claims **2,255** were awarded. **Table 1** provides a summary by financial year.

Please note, the WPS condition information is not available until the claim receives an outcome and therefore there may be further registered claims for melanoma (particularly in 2019/20) that are pending an outcome and are not included in the figures above.

Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2020, **75** appeals were cleared under the WPS following a claim for melanoma. Of these appeals, **26** had a successful outcome (an outcome of awarded or increased). **Table 2** provides a summary by financial year.

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 appeal relates specifically to the claim for melanoma. Therefore, some of these 75 appeals may be related to another injury/illness claimed for at the time of the initial claim. For information, 53 of the individuals who made these appeals, also had claims recorded for other conditions under the WPS.

**Table 1: Claims registered for melanoma under the WPS, overall and those awarded, numbers¹
1 April 2003 – 31 March 2020**

Year claim registered	Claims for melanoma	Of which awarded
All	2,539	2,255
2003/04	52	44
2004/05	76	67
2005/06	117	101
2006/07	112	98
2007/08	126	117
2008/09	170	152
2009/10	157	139
2010/11	200	174
2011/12	186	164
2012/13	185	163
2013/14	196	178
2014/15	200	170
2015/16	178	160
2016/17	155	140
2017/18	169	152
2018/19	180	162
2019/20	80	74

Source: War Pension Computer System (WPCS)

1. Claims include first disablement claims and further condition claims

**Table 2: Appeals cleared under the WPS following a claim for melanoma, overall and those with a successful outcome, numbers^{1,2}
1 April 2003 – 31 March 2020**

Year appeal cleared	Appeals following a claim for melanoma	Of which successful
All	75	26
2003/04	0	0
2004/05	5	4
2005/06	~	~
2006/07	~	~
2007/08	5	~
2008/09	6	3
2009/10	3	~
2010/11	4	~
2011/12	6	~
2012/13	0	0
2013/14	4	~
2014/15	9	~
2015/16	5	~
2016/17	6	~
2017/18	5	0
2018/19	5	~
2019/20	8	4

Source: War Pension Computer System (WPCS)

1. Appeals include entitlement appeals and assessment appeals

2. In line with the JSP 200 directive on statistical disclosure control, figures fewer than three have been suppressed and marked ~. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish 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.

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

Claims for melanoma are recorded on the WPCS as 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 a free-text search for the following terms: melanoma, CMM.

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

Claims were included in the figures provided where the condition evidence date was within a year of the claim registered date. Appeals were included where the appeal registered date was after the condition evidence date.

Figures for appeal outcomes are based on the decision from the Pensions Appeal Tribunal under the Ministry of Justice.

Further information on the eligibility to claim, and the processing of WPS claims and appeals, 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>

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

