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26 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 22 December 2020, requesting the following information:

“...financial compensation paid under the AFCS following illness claims for all mental disorders and PTSD between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020, broken down by financial year.”

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in the scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. This is also in line with JSP 200 Statistics Disclosure Guidelines. Figures have been rounded 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.

Table 1 presents the number of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) claims made for mental disorders that were awarded under the Mental Disorder tariff of injury table between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020. Total amounts paid out in lump sum and Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) awards as at 31 March 2020 are also presented.

Table 1: AFCS awards under the Mental Disorder tariff of injury table, by financial year¹, numbers² and £³.

1 April 2017 – 31 March 2020

	Number of mental disorder claims awarded ⁴	Total amount awarded (£) ^{5,6}	Lump sum amount awarded (£) ⁵	GIP amount awarded (£) ⁵
All Years⁶	1,455	14,860,700	13,402,100	1,458,600
2017/18	560	6,709,300	5,693,000	1,016,400
2018/19	500	5,040,600	4,683,000	357,700
2019/20	395	3,110,700	3,026,100	84,600

Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) and Veterans UK Finance Team

1. Presented by the financial year in which the claim was cleared.

2. In line with JSP 200, figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

3. Amounts awarded have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

4. Figures presented in this response do not match those presented in the AFCS National Statistic. The AFCS National Statistic presents the number of conditions awarded under the AFCS by the financial year the initial claim was registered. This response presents the number of claims awarded under the AFCS by the financial year the initial claim was cleared.

5. Amounts are presented by the financial year in which the initial claim was cleared. If a claim had subsequent activity (a reconsideration, appeal and/or review) which led to an increase in the award, the increase award value is presented in the financial year the initial claim was cleared, not the financial year the increased was awarded.

6. Due to rounding in accordance with JSP200, totals may not equate to 100% of the components.

Table 2 presents the number of AFCS claims made for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that were awarded under the Mental Disorder tariff of injury table between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020. Total amounts paid out in lump sum and GIP awards as at 31 March 2020 are also presented.

Table 2: AFCS awards under the Mental Disorder tariff of injury table, where the claim was made for PTSD, by financial year¹, numbers² and £³.

1 April 2017 – 31 March 2020

	Number of PTSD claims awarded ⁴	Total amount awarded (£) ^{5,6}	Lump sum amount awarded (£) ⁵	GIP amount awarded (£) ⁵
All Years⁶	1,170	12,431,600	11,099,100	1,332,600
2017/18	455	5,656,800	4,725,600	931,200
2018/19	375	4,058,400	3,741,600	316,800
2019/20	345	2,716,400	2,631,900	84,600

Sources: Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) and Veterans UK Finance Team

1. Presented by the financial year in which the claim was cleared.

2. In line with JSP 200, figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

3. Amounts awarded have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

4. Figures presented in this response do not match those presented in the AFCS National Statistic. The AFCS National Statistic presents the number of conditions awarded under the AFCS by the financial year the initial claim was registered. This response presents the number of claims awarded under the AFCS by the financial year the initial claim was cleared.

5. Amounts are presented by the financial year in which the initial claim was cleared. If a claim had subsequent activity (a reconsideration, appeal and/or review) which led to an increase in the award, the increase award value is presented in the financial year the initial claim was cleared, not the financial year the increase was awarded.

6. Due to rounding in accordance with JSP200, totals may not equate to 100% of the components.

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

Information in Table 1 and Table 2 is presented by the financial year in which the AFCS claim was cleared. This does not match figures in the AFCS National Statistic for awards under the Mental Disorder tariff of injury table and PTSD claims, which are presented by the financial year in which the AFCS claim was registered. Claims for Mental Disorders include claims for PTSD, therefore the figures in Table 1 are inclusive of those presented in Table 2. The figures provided include awards made as a result of an initial claim or following a later review, reconsideration or appeal. Due to changes in methodology, the figures within this response are not comparable to previously published FOI responses.

The 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. The Veterans UK finance team provided the financial amounts paid out in lump sum compensation and Guaranteed Income Payments (GIP).

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>

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 August 2020 (as at 31 March 2020).

Claimants' injuries/illnesses considered to be Service-attributable are awarded under the AFCS in line with one of nine tariff injury tables, which each cover the legislation surrounding the payment of compensation: Table 1 - Burns; Table 2 - Injury, Wounds and Scarring; Table 3 - Mental Disorders; Table 4 - Physical Disorders; Table 5 - Amputations; Table 6 - Neurological Disorders; Table 7 - Senses; Table 8 - Fractures and Dislocations; and Table 9 - Musculoskeletal Disorders. The information supplied in this response concerns awards made under Table 3 – Mental Disorders.

Please note that whilst it is possible to determine AFCS awards for mental disorders from the electronic information, it is not possible to reliably determine awards for PTSD specifically. PTSD awards have been identified based on a free text search of the condition claimed for using the following terms: 'PTSD', 'post traumatic stress' and 'post-traumatic stress'. The condition claimed for is based on information supplied by the claimant and does not necessarily reflect a diagnosis of PTSD. Therefore, awards made under the mental disorders table to those that claimed for PTSD may have been awarded for a different type of mental illness. Therefore, these figures should be treated with caution.

Tax-free lump sum awards are paid to all service personnel and veterans as compensation for pain and suffering for an injury or illness that is predominantly caused or made worse by service. Lump sum awards can be made whilst the claimant is still in service. Where a lump sum award has been made at tariff levels 1-11 (reflecting a more serious injury/illness), the claimant will also be awarded a tax-free index-linked income stream known as a Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP). A GIP will be paid from service termination for life to recognise long-term loss of earnings.

Please note that multiple injuries/illnesses can be awarded under one claim. In these cases, the amount reported in this response for lump sum compensation is specific to the award made for mental disorders or PTSD. However, the Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) covers the total amount paid for the whole award. It is not possible to split this down into the specific elements of the payment.

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 Statistics Health