

Ref: FOI2021/02312

26 March 2021

[REDACTED]

I thank you for your email of 26 February 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"I am requesting the following information under the freedom of information act 2000.

- *The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to **type 1 diabetes mellitus** and subsequently awarded a **Tier 1** pension under **AFPS 15**.*
- *The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to **type 1 diabetes mellitus** and subsequently awarded a **Tier 2** pension under **AFPS 15**.*
- *The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to **type 1 diabetes mellitus** and subsequently awarded a **Tier 2** pension under **AFPS 15 after appeal**.*
- *The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to **type 1 diabetes mellitus** and subsequently awarded a **Tier 3** under **AFPS 15**."*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

Request : The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to type 1 diabetes mellitus and subsequently awarded a Tier 1 pension under AFPS 15.

Between 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2020, twenty six UK armed forces personnel were medically discharged with an ICD code for type 1 diabetes mellitus listed as a principal or contributory cause and received an AFPS 15 ill-health award at Tier 1.

Request: The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to type 1 diabetes mellitus and subsequently awarded a Tier 2 pension under AFPS 15.

Between 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2020, no UK armed forces personnel were medically discharged with an ICD code for type 1 diabetes mellitus listed as a principal or contributory cause and had an AFPS 15 ill-health award at Tier 2.

Request: The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to type 1 diabetes mellitus and subsequently awarded a Tier 2 pension under AFPS 15 after appeal.

Between 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2020, there were no UK armed forces personnel discharged with type 1 diabetes mellitus listed as a principal or contributory cause, who were subsequently awarded a tier 2 pension under AFPS 15 following an appeal.

Request: The number of personal medically discharged from the armed forces due to type 1 diabetes mellitus and subsequently awarded a Tier 3 under AFPS 15.”

Between 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2020, no UK armed forces personnel were medically discharged with an ICD code for type 1 diabetes mellitus listed as a principal or contributory cause and had an AFPS 15 ill-health award at Tier 3.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that An additional 3 UK Armed Forces personnel who were medically discharged with an ICD code for type 1 diabetes mellitus listed as a principle or contributory condition had less than 2 years qualifying service and were therefore not entitled to receive an AFPS 15 ill-health award.

A Tier 1 Ill-Health award is awarded as a lump sum, Tiers 2 and 3 are awarded as a pension.

The ICD-10 code was used to identify personnel with type 1 diabetes mellitus:
E10 “Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, which includes diabetes (mellitus); brittle, juvenile-onset, ketosis-prone and type I”

Information presented includes trained and untrained UK armed forces regular personnel.

Medical Discharge:

Medical discharges due to Type I Diabetes were identified as personnel who were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of discharge coded as E10 to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Medical discharges are the result of a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc.) coming to the conclusion that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that pre-empts their continued service in the Armed Forces. Statistics based on these discharges do not represent measures of true morbidity or pathology. At best they indicate a minimum burden of ill-health in the Armed Forces. Furthermore, the number and diversity of processes involved with administering a medical discharge introduce a series of time lags, as well as impact on the quality of data recorded.

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP):

The information on cases was sourced from electronic personnel records from DMICP and manually entered paper documents from medical boards. The primary purpose of these medical documents is to ensure the appropriate administration of each individual patient’s discharge. Statistical analysis and reporting is a secondary function.

DMICP has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated medical records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers.

DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

The rollout of DMICP commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre. By 2010, DMICP was in place for the UK and the majority of Germany. Rollout to other overseas locations commenced in November 2011.

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