

Ref: FOI2021/05541

17 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"I require freedom of information veterans currently receiving a war pension for PTSD and then a breakdown of % they are on for their PTSD ie
2300 on 20%
5000 on 30% etc etc*

I am also after numbers of veterans on the war pension system who have had an automatic increase to their war pension when their gps have returned medical forms to veterans Uk ie the veteran has submitted a deterioration form and another medical condition has changed and veterans Uk have gave an automatic increase for the injury not mentioned on the deterioration forms"

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can advise that all of the information in the scope of your request is held. However, I have to advise you that we would not be able to answer your questions without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

In regard to Question two, in order to identify deterioration claims that resulted in a change to an award for another medical condition (not mentioned on the deterioration claim form) would require a manual search of individual claim files. To manually search the deterioration claims received during 2019/20 and extract the information would take one person at least two months to achieve.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Guidance) we have an obligation to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable and to suggest ways in which you can refine your request. As such, if you were to refine your request to Question one, we would be happy to consider your request. However, due to the broad nature of Question two, I am unable to suggest ways in which you can refine question two to bring it under the cost limit.

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