

Ref: FOI2021/09785/10196

30 September 2021

Thank you for your emails of 2 and 8 September 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking the following information:

FOI 2021/09785

"I am writing to request that I am provided with the following documents and information by the MoD under The Freedom of Information Act:

- Pension Policy Statements/Instructions from 2005 to the present day in relation to the AFPS 75, AFPS 05 and Armed Forces Attributable Benefits Scheme;
- Veterans Agency Medical Adjudication Guide on specific topics by Dr Braidwood
- War Pension Medical Advisers Instructions and Procedures;
- Veterans Agency Medical Adjudication Guide;
- MPM57A Veterans Agency Medical Handbook;"

FOI 2021/10196

"I am writing to you to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the MoD/Veterans UK to provide me with the following information:

1. A copy of the DBS Veterans UK policy on financial redress for maladministration;
2. Documents on Armed Forces pension policy in relation to ill health pensions for PTSD and mental health disorders;
3. Policy and guidance documents for Veterans UK Deciding Officers;
4. Policy documents in relation to retrospective medical discharges and ill health pension entitlements to soldiers that receive retrospective medical discharges;
5. Information on the outcome of the Hodder v Pension Appeal Tribunal (details are in the attached document) and summarised below:
 27. It follows that the reconsideration before the Tribunal will entail the following stages:

(a) The Tribunal must decide whether PTSD is in fact the only psychiatric condition from which the Claimant suffers.

(b) If PTSD is the only such condition, the Tribunal must then assess the level of disability suffered by the Claimant on account of PTSD.

(c) If the Tribunal concludes that there are psychiatric conditions in play other than PTSD, it must assess the overall disability suffered by the Claimant on account of all psychiatric conditions and then determine how much of that global level is attributable to PTSD.

A short explanation of its approach is called for in the reasons it gives for its decision”.

I have considered the above requests under the FOIA and in accordance with the letter sent to you on 31 July 2015 and the Internal Review upholding this decision of 9 September 2015 these requests are being treated as vexatious requests under section 14(1) of FOIA.

The correspondence listed above advised, *“the Department has no obligation to comply with the requests listed above or with any future requests on the subject of ‘Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and related issues’. This includes, but is not limited to, compensation claims, pension payments, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD in both military and civilian personnel. Should you choose to submit further requests or correspondence on this subject you should be aware they will go unanswered”.*

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