



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email on 2 December 2021 requesting the following information:

“Please could you answer the following questions in relation to accidents sustained by military parachutists and the compensation paid to them for those injuries.

- 1. “Please state the total number of accidents which occurred during a parachuting activity in each of the last three financial years and which were reported to the MOD Safety systems.*
- 2. Please state the total amount paid out in lump sum payments under the AFCS to service personnel or former service personnel who had a parachute accident recorded in the MOD Safety systems in each of the last three financial years.*
- 3. Please state the total amount paid out in Guaranteed Income Payments (GIPs) to former service personnel who had a parachute accident recorded in the MOD Safety systems in each of the last three financial years.”*

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 information in 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 fewer than 5 have been suppressed to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Financial amounts have also been rounded to the nearest hundred. 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.

Between 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021 there were **173** parachuting incidents which resulted in an injury to military personnel and were reported within the MOD Safety Systems.

Table 1: Number of parachuting incidents recorded through the MOD Safety systems, by financial year

1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021

Year	Health and Safety Incidents
All	173
2018/19	84
2019/20	56
2020/21	33

Source: AINC, NLIMS, AIRS, FSIMS, UK Strategic Command, DE&S, DIO, HOCS, ASIMS

Please note, this number will reflect the **minimum** number of incidents reported for this time period due to health and safety reporting requirements. All incidents reported to MOD systems which resulted in an injury have been included.

As at 31 March 2021, **31** individuals had been awarded compensation, under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), for claims registered after a parachute incident as recorded on MOD Safety Systems. Please note these claims awarded may not be related to the incident which occurred during a parachute activity. For the 31 awarded claimants, a total of **£271,300** had been awarded in Lump Sum amounts, as at 31 March 2021, and none were awarded a Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP).

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

Health and Safety Databases

To compile the parachuting incidents that led to injuries a search was performed on the MOD Health and Safety datasets.

MOD personnel report health and safety incidents using a variety of reporting mechanisms. Since 2005, armed forces personnel and civilians report incidents to Incident Notification Cells or via their on-site Safety, Health, Environment and Fire (SHEF) advisors. Defence Statistics Health then collate this data into a single Health and Safety dataset. The data within this response is collated from the following systems:

- Naval Lessons and Information Management System (NLIMS)
- Army Incident Notification Cell (AINC)
- Accident and Incident Recording System (AIRS)
- Functional Safety Incident Management System (FSIMS)
- UK Strategic Command
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)
- Defence Equipment and Support Cell (DINC)
- Head Office and Corporate Services (HOCS)
- Air Safety Incident Management System (ASIMS)

Information was searched for incidents where text description of the incident included the following key words: parachuting, parachute, injury, injured. These were subsequently manually reviewed to

ensure an injury occurred as a result of a parachute incident. Thus, parachuting incidents not including these terms may have been excluded from the number reported.

As parachuting incidents can be reported across the Command safety systems as well as the regulator system, duplicated records may exist. The narrative information alongside date of incident was reviewed to identify and remove duplicate records.

MOD safety systems are live databases and can be updated and have additional information recorded throughout an investigation. Records can also be removed if identified as duplicates. Therefore, figures are subject to change and revisions.

For more information on Health and Safety Incidents, please see the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-personnel-health-and-safety-statistics-financial-year-202021>

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

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 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 2021 to inform the latest published National Statistics, as published on the Gov.uk website on 24 June 2021: <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 24 June 2021 (as at 31 March 2021).

Claimants' injuries/illnesses considered to be Service-attributable are awarded under the AFCS in line with one of nine tariff of 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 legislation surrounding the payment of compensation under each tariff of injury table also determines the tariff level at which each injury/illness should be paid compensation. There are 15 tariff levels which each attract a lump sum award. Tariff levels 1- 11 also attract an ongoing Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP), a tax-free index-linked income stream known as the Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) is paid from service termination for life to recognise loss of future earnings due to the injury or illness. The full tariff of injury tables and associated tariff levels are published online by Infolaw, a publisher of legal resources.

As at 31 March 2021, fewer than five of the individuals who had registered a claim after the parachute incident were still awaiting an outcome (their claim was pending), therefore the number of awarded claims in this response should be treated as a minimum.

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 Analysis Health