

Ref: FOI2021/14775

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

20 December 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

"due to ongoing failure of veterans agency i would be grateful for the following information with respect to mobility supplement

how many applications for this allowance made from july 2019 to june 2020

of these how many completed on initial application

of those that failed how many went forward to appeal

of those how many had appeal upheld

of the upheld how many taken further

and finally of the original applications how many terminated due to the death of the vereran."

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 MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held.

However, in order to protect personal information governed by Data Protection legislation, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by suppressing numbers less than 3. This is in accordance with departmental statistical practice. 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 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 there were 394 War Pension Mobility Supplement (WPMS) first claims registered under the War Pension Scheme (WPS).

- No claims were terminated due to death of the applicant
- 228 claims were awarded favourably at initial review

- 135 claims were rejected at initial review and 19 of these went on to appeal.
- Of the 19 appealed claims, fewer than three resulted in the original decision being upheld. None of these resulted in the appellant submitting another claim or appeal following the date their previous appeal had been cleared.

The figures above are provided by the War Pensions Computer System and are correct as of 30 September 2021.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) it may be helpful if I explain that a claim is not automatically terminated if an applicant dies during the claim process. Instead, their next of kin are asked if they wish for the claim to be continued and a claim would only be terminated as a result of their decision.

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