



Defence Business Services
DBS Secretariat
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2022/01921

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

25 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about the War Pension Scheme (WPS) and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

You requested the following information:

“Specifically, in relation to the War Pension Scheme we should be grateful to receive all information held concerning:

- *how a claimant’s level of disablement is assessed; and*
- *any scoring criteria and/or checklist and/or other material that is used by Veterans UK assessors when considering whether to make an award and the amount of any such award.*

In relation to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, please provide all information regarding:

- *how a claimant’s application is assessed;*
- *how an appropriate tariff is selected; and*
- *any scoring criteria and/or checklist and/or other material that is used by Veterans UK assessors when considering whether to make an award and the amount of any such award.”*

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 of the information in scope of your request is held. However, I have to advise you that we would not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate cost limits, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting the information.

The information you require would include Guidance, Policy Directives, Desk Aids, hand-outs, training material for both medical and lay staff, and case law for both schemes.

To provide the Desk Aids since 2015, Policy Directives since 2016 and training handouts alone is estimated to be around 48 hours work which would cost approximately £1,136.00. As your request is so broad the cost of complying with it in its entirety far exceeds the cost limit under Section 12.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) the department may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you were to refine your request by limiting the time period of data you are asking for, which in turn would reduce the amount of information to be examined. Although it is not guaranteed that your refined request may fall within the cost limit, we would be happy to look at it again.

Additionally, under Section 16 you might be interested to know that some information related to your request is publicly available. I have provided links below to assist you:

Guidance in relation to the WPS;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/war-pension-scheme-wps>

The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006/606 is the legislation which governs the WPS;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/606/contents>

Guidance in relation to the AFCS;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-afcs>

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme Order (AFCS) 2011 is the legislation which governs the AFCS;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/517/contents>

The JSP 765 (AFCS Statement of Policy which also includes the WPS);

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-service-publication-jsp-765-the-armed-forces-compensation-scheme>

Guidance in relation to the Independent Medical Expert Group (IMEG). This is a list of topics relating to medical and scientific aspects of the AFCS covered in the IMEG reports;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-medical-expert-group-report-topics/independent-medical-expert-group-report-topics>

Synopsis of causation which covers a range of injuries and disorders often seen in service personnel and veterans and used to support decision making on both schemes;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-compensation-and-occupational-pension-schemes-synopses-of-causation>

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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services Secretariat