



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Business Services  
Secretariat  
Room 6229  
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Norcross  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/11508

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

29 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 September 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"the amount of A Lower Standard of Occupation (ALSO) allowance claims made to Veterans UK between 1st April 2022 and 1st April 2023?"*

On 19 September 2023 you asked the following question:

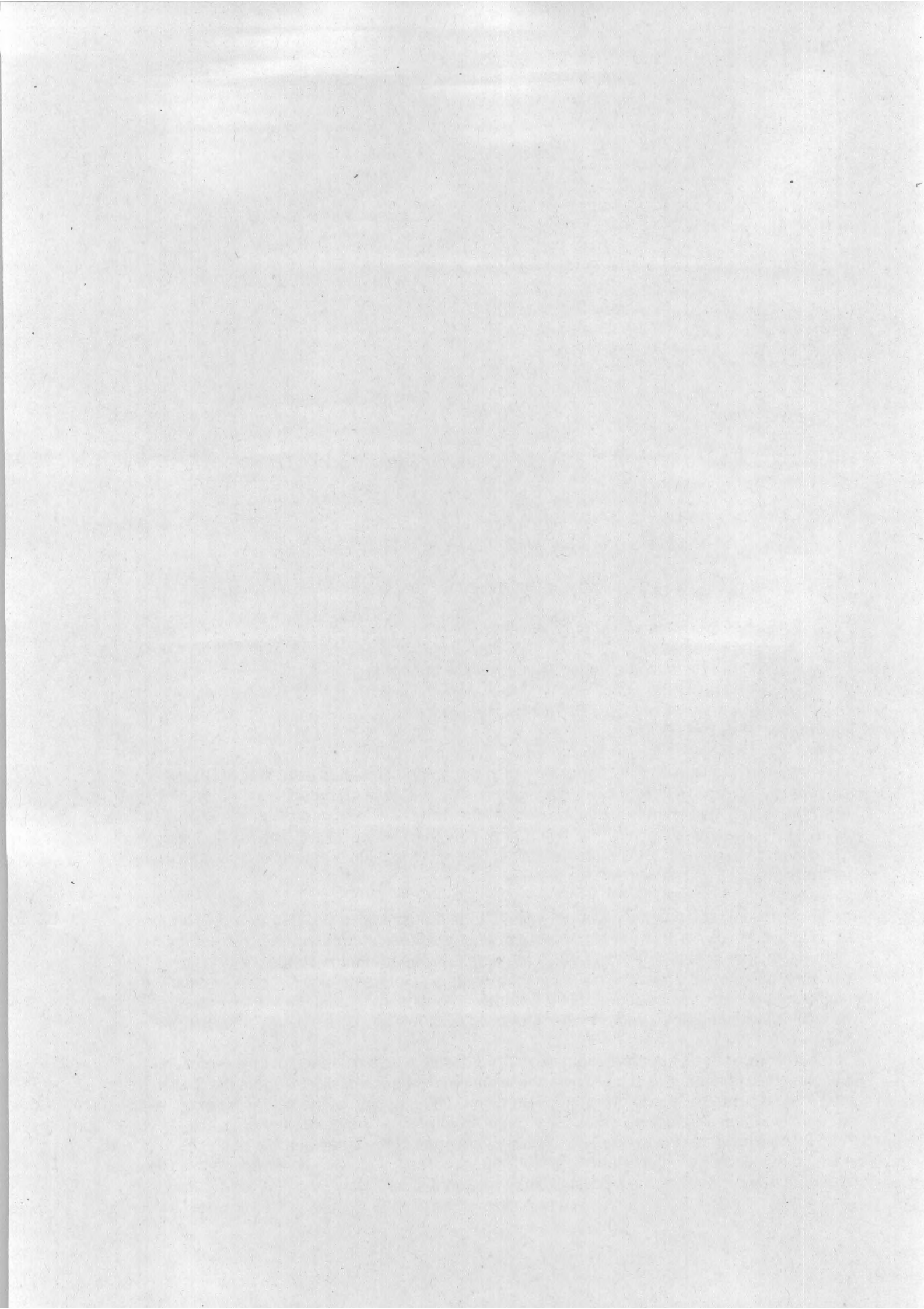
*"As you have decided not to answer my FoI request can you advise me where the information you say is available elsewhere actually is? I have checked the WP and AFCS Statistics as you stated and it does not show the number of ALSO claims annually."*

I am treating your latest correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can reiterate that a search for the information has been completed within the MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held. However, most of the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means. As Section 21 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making the decision to withhold the information.

As your original request also included 1 April 2023, I must advise you that Section 40(2) has been applied to that single date in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise, this exercise involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure, this is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions in FOIA.

The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in Section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified to answer the amount of ALSO claims for 1 April 2023. This information has been withheld because of the small number of claims made in a single day could potentially lead to identifying individuals that have either not consented to, or are unable to consent to, the release of their personal information.



**QUARTERLY ALSO CLAIMS RECEIVED UNDER THE WAR PENSION SCHEME**

Table 2: Claims registered under the War Pension Scheme during the last five quarters, by claim type and quarter [note 4] [note 5], numbers [note 6], 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023  
The MoD is currently reviewing this publication with the intention of removing this table, effective from 2024. Please note, some of the information within this table is provided by year in Table 1.  
This worksheet contains one table with a notes column at the end to provide subset guidance, some cells refer to notes which can be found on the notes worksheet.

Claim type	Claims registered				Notes
	during: Q1 2022/23	during: Q2 2022/23	during: Q3 2022/23	during: Q4 2022/23	
Supplementary Allowance claims - number of people	386	369	370	362	
Supplementary Allowance claims - number of claims	417	415	411	402	Cells A24 to A36 are a subset of A23
Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation	49	26	35	31	



Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that the majority of the information you have requested is contained within the published War Pension Scheme (WPS) Annual statistics. The information is located within the Table 2 tab (the supplementary tables) on row 24:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/war-pensions-scheme-statistics-2023>

MOD produces this information on a financial year basis, consequently the information shows the number of claims for ALSO made between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, the information is contained in both the excel .xls file on the page at the link, or the .ods Open Office format file. It is not in the .pdf file.

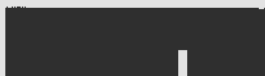
The data you requested is recorded in the table as the quarterly number of claims received, which when totalled is 141 ALSO claims for the period 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. In case you are not able to open the files at the link detailed above, you can find a picture of the number of ALSO claims received quarterly including the period 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 at Annex A.

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](mailto: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 Defence Business Services Secretariat.

Defence Business Services Secretariat

