



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
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Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2024/01499

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

21 February 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 January 2024 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

"The number of hearing loss cases filed across all sectors of the Armed Forces, including the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force, from 1 January 2004 to 1 January 2023.

The leading causes of hearing loss across the Armed Forces, including the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force, ordered by commonality per cause.

The number of accepted and rejected claims made against the MOD for armed forces hearing loss.

If the latest date (1 January 2023) is not available, please work to the most recent possible date and backdate the data a year, ie: 1 January 2022

The term 'hearing loss' specifically refers to any instance where a member of the Armed Forces has undertaken an audiometer test and has been found to have decreased in hearing capacity from when they joined, including those who have lost hearing but are still above the threshold to be considered able for duty."

On 24 January 2024 you provided the following clarification:

"Please provide the number of accepted and rejected hearing loss claims for NIHL made under AFCS

Please only relate the data to AFCS cases from 6 April 2005 to the closest available date to the present day"

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. As per our previous letter dated 23 January 2024, the MOD is able to confirm that between 6 April 2005 and 30 September 2023 there were 3,118 accepted and 203 rejected claims under the Armed Forces Compensation

Scheme (AFCS), that included a claimed for condition related to Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL).

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that the AFCS came into effect 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 and Reserve Forces Pensions Scheme.

AFCS data is sourced from the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) which is administrated and managed by Defence Business Services (DBS).

This response includes claims that were cleared (either accepted or rejected) between 6 April 2005 and 30 September 2023. The figures are based on the claim outcome as at 30 September 2023; the latest claim outcome could be as a result of an initial claim or following later subsequent activity such as a review, reconsideration or appeal.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint 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. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,



Defence Business Services Secretariat