



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
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Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2024/03049

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

25 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2024 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) confirming your intention to request the following information:

- “1. How many requests have been submitted under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for an exceptional award review?*
- 2. How many regional Consultant (psychology and/or psychiatry) referrals have Veterans UK made for AFCS claimants in order to obtain a report?*
- 3. How many AFCS awards have been made under Table 6 (neurological disorders...) item 22, up to 8th April 2019?*
- 4. Is the Veterans UK IT system able to provide Veterans UK staff with contact details for ALL historical AFCS claimants, specifically for awards for claimants of Table 6 item 22?”*

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.

The answers to your questions have been provided below in respect of the order of the questions.

1. Between 6 April 2005 and 31 March 2023 there were 1,710 Exceptional Reviews registered under the AFCS.
2. During 2023, a total of 31 Consultant reports were requested to be undertaken. Of those 31, only 6 were specifically Regional Consultant reports.
3. Between 6 April 2005 and 8 April 2019, there were 60 awards made under the AFCS for the tariff descriptor:

Brain injury from which the claimant has made a substantial recovery, has no major motor or sensory deficits, but does have one or more of a residual functionally disabling:

- (i) cognitive deficit,
- (ii) behavioural change, or
- (iii) change in personality,

but is able to undertake some form of regular employment.

4. The contact details of all claimants from their claim form and any other correspondence is recorded. Those contact details will be updated if the claimant changes their personal details on the Joint Personnel Administration system or if they contact our Helpline with new information. Unless contacted by the customer, we will not know if the contact details are current.

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)