Ministry of Defence

War Pension Scheme Annual Statistics

1 April 2016 to 31 March 2026

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This annual bulletin provides summary statistics on claims, awards and recipients of pensions, allowances or other payments under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) between 2016/17 and 2025/26. The WPS is a no-fault scheme, which financially compensates for injury/illness and death caused by service in the UK armed forces from the start of the First World War in 1914 until 5 April 2005.

Key Points

As at 31 March 2026, there were

73,924 disablement pensioners and **8,558** war widows/widowers in receipt of a war pension.

Of which, **55% and 88%** respectively were of retirement age (65+).

Subsequently, **36%** of supplementary allowances were paid out in the form of age addition allowances.

During financial year 2025/26 there were

1,515 first disablement and **432** war widows'/widowers' claims cleared.

Of which, **69% & 52%** respectively were awarded compensation.

In 2025/26, the total disablement pension expenditure was **£495.2M** and the total war widow/widower expenditure was **£137.2M**.

Of the £495.2M, **£13.4M** was lump sum expenditure to compensate for mesothelioma.

On average it took approximately **17 months** to clear first disablement claims, **four months** to clear war widows'/widowers' claims and **11 months** to clear appeals.

The MOD has no control over the time taken for the tribunal to arrange a hearing date once the completed bundle of evidence has been sent.

The transitioning of the WPS to a new system in 2024/25 has continued to have a significant impact on the capacity to process and clear claims. The transition continues to require the implementation of new internal processes and the upskilling of claim handlers. Further details are in the Background Quality Report.

Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch

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Introduction

This Statistical Bulletin presents summary information on the War Pension Scheme (WPS) as at 31 March 2026. A new data system was introduced in September 2024, introducing several methodology changes in the 2024/25 report. Although applying the new methodology to recreate previous years' key outputs resulted in differences of less than five percent, this constitutes a break in the time series. Figures from 2024/25 onwards are therefore not directly comparable with earlier years. Further details are in the Background Quality Report (BQR).

From 25/26 onwards, the War Pension Scheme Statistic will no longer be accredited. It will continue as an Official Statistic and remain to comply with the Code of Practice.

Official statistics comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics. Official statistics can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- Meet identified user needs
- Are well explained and readily accessible
- Are produced according to sound methods
- Are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of Official Statistics should adhere to.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing: **regulation@statistics.gov.uk** or via the OSR website.

The WPS provides no-fault compensation for all ex-service personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by service from the start of the First World War in 1914 up until 5 April 2005. All compensation claims are administered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Further information on the eligibility to claim, and the processing of WPS claims, can be found on the GOV.UK website page on the War Pension Scheme.

These statistics have been provided in response to a high volume of requests for information about claims and awards under the scheme, and the number of individuals currently in receipt of a War Pension. These statistics are used by external organisations such as NHS trusts, local Government, and armed forces charities. This report is also used internally to aid work planning and policy development.

All tables provided in previous releases of this report have been updated with 2025/26 data and are available as separate Excel and Open Document Spreadsheet (ODS) files in the War Pensions Recipients Index.

In addition to this statistical bulletin, the MOD also publishes annual statistics summarising the MOD compensation payments under the:

a) Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS): This scheme considers claims for compensation for injury, illness or death caused by service on or after 6 April 2005. Details of which can be found in the AFCS Index.
b) Common Law Compensation Scheme: This scheme considers claims or compensation based on whether the MOD has a legal liability to pay compensation. Where there is a proven legal liability, compensation is paid. The details of which can be found in the MOD Compensation Claims Statistics.

Other related Official Statistics:

c) A publication on medical discharges in the UK Regular Armed Forces can be found in the Medical Discharge Official Statistic.
d) A collection of publications and data from the Office for National Statistics related to characteristics of the UK armed forces veterans population using responses provided in the 2021 Census and Scotland 2022 Census.

Registered Claims and Appeals

This section provides summary information on claims and appeals registered under the WPS during 2025/26, and trends over time.

Disablement claim: Registered by ex-UK armed forces personnel for injury/illness caused by service prior to 6 April 2005. Includes first and second/subsequent claims.

First disablement claim: There are two types of first claim; **current invaliding claims** are raised automatically following medical discharge for a pre-April 2005 injury or illness. All other first claims are classed as a **first claim to pension.**

Second/Subsequent disablement claim: Claimants can submit further claims if existing conditions worsen or they suffer the onset of new associated conditions following their first claim.

War widows'/widowers' claim: Registered by, and on behalf of, eligible spouses and partners following the death of a service person or veteran where the cause of death was attributed to service in the UK armed forces prior to 6 April 2005.

Supplementary Allowance claim: Pension recipients may claim for 'top-up' payments to provide financial support for a range of care needs, including additional costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement.

Appeals: All claimants may lodge an appeal if they are not satisfied with the outcome of their claim.

During 2025/26 there were:

6,690 Disablement claims registered by ex-UK armed forces personnel for compensation for service-attributable injury or illness. Of these,

- **3,203 were first disablement claims, and**
- **3,487 were second/subsequent disablement claims.**

Additionally, there were:

- **484 war widows'/widowers' claims** registered to apply for compensation for service-attributable death.
- **1,424[a] supplementary allowance claims** registered by disablement pensioners and war widows/widowers for additional financial support.
- **503[a] Appeals** registered by disablement pension and war widow/ widower pension claimants, who were dissatisfied with the outcome of their claim.

[a] Numbers are a minimum: following the migration to Compendia Touch, there were 77 supplementary allowance cases where, in the data, it is not clear if they were an initial, review or appeal claim.

Figure 1 shows an annual decrease in the number of registered disablement claims for the first time since 2020/21 (15% total decrease from 2024/25). This is consistent with the trend shown prior to 2020/21 and is primarily the result of the introduction of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) on 6 April 2005 which took over the administration of compensation arrangements for service-attributable injury/illness and deaths on or after this date. The increase in registered claims between 2020/21 and 2024/25 may have been influenced by several factors such as recovery following COVID-19, the new Digital Claim Form and the introduction of the Veterans ID card.

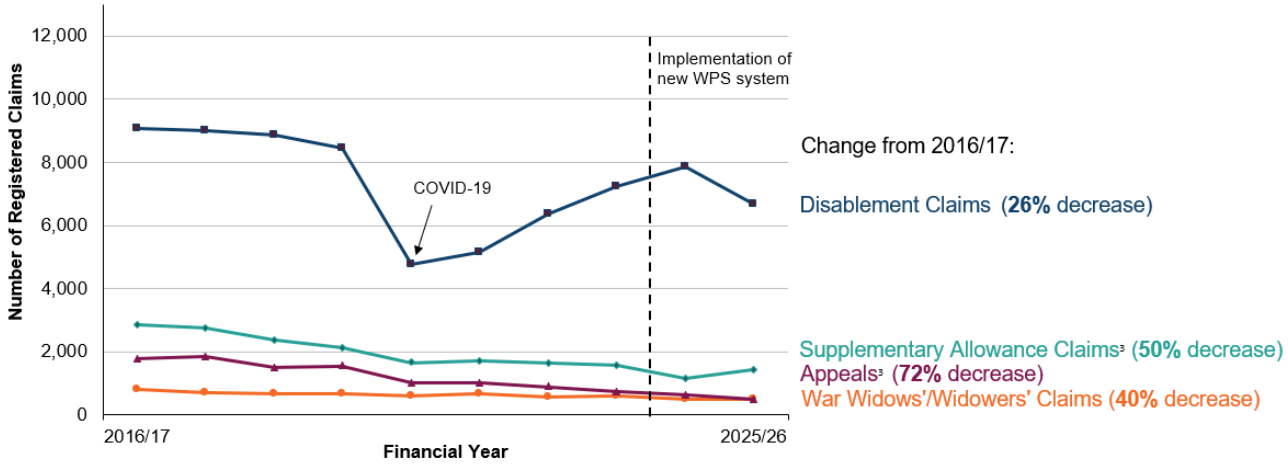
(Tables 1 and 2, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Registered Claims and Appeals (Cont.)

Between 2016/17 and 2025/26, the number of registered **disablement claims reduced by approximately a quarter** (26% decrease from 9,065 claims in 2016/17) and the number of **war widows'/widowers' claims had also reduced by four in ten** (40% decrease from 806 claims in 2016/17). The difference between 2016/17 and 2025/26 in registered disablement claims is similar to that seen between 2010/11 and 2019/20 (ten-year period preceding COVID-19). This is primarily the result of the ageing and declining second world war and national service populations, which means that the number of people available to claim is reducing year on year. Another factor that may be influencing this decline is the introduction of the AFCS on 6 April 2005, which took over the administration of compensation arrangements for service-attributable injury/illness and deaths on or after this date. Subsequently, the numbers of all other claim types have also reduced over this period.

Figure 1: War Pension Scheme claims registered, by claim type[1,2] and financial year the claim was registered, numbers and percentage changes since 2016/17

1 April 2016 to 31 March 2026



Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch

1. Disablement claims include both first and second claims.
2. Includes appeals for all claim types.
3. Percentage decrease likely to be a maximum due to 77 supplementary allowance cases where unknown if initial, review or appeal

Disablement and war widows'/widowers' claims have continued to be registered under the WPS since the introduction of the AFCS for the following reasons:

- Service personnel with a pre-April 2005 injury / illness are not able to claim for compensation under the WPS until they have left the UK armed forces, and there is no time limit for registration of first disablement claims.
- The WPS will consider compensating the widows/widowers of deceased ex-service personnel who were in receipt of specific War Pension arrangements at the time of their death (as detailed in the Background Quality Report).
- War widows'/widowers' claims are also still automatically generated for consideration under the WPS following a death in service, regardless of cause, if the service person joined the UK armed forces prior to 6 April 2005.

(Table 1, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Clearance Times

This section provides summary information on the average (median) number of working days it took to clear claims and appeals registered under the WPS, as an indication of how long a claimant can expect to wait, on average, for a decision. Figures are presented for claims cleared in 2025/26. Previous years are also presented but figures before 2024/25 are not comparable due to methodology changes made because of the change in system made in September 2024. These are detailed in the BQR. Note that clearance times for supplementary allowance claims have not been calculated as they include a wide range of care needs, from claiming for a refund on prescription glasses to more complex needs such as claiming for employability support.

During 2025/26:

First claims were cleared, on average, in approximately **17 months**.

Second / subsequent disablement pension were cleared, on average, in approximately **18 months.**

War widows'/widowers' claims were cleared, on average, in approximately **four months**.

Appeals were cleared, on average, in approximately **11 months**.

Figure 2: War Pension Scheme claim and appeal clearance times[1], by claim type and financial year cleared, median average, upper quartile and lower quartile[2]

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026

Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch

1. Appeals clearance times were calculated from date of appeal registration to date a decision was made by Tribunal, Ministry of Justice.
2. See 'Methodology' section for further information on the median and upper and lower quartiles.

(Tables 2, 3, 4, & 5, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Clearance Times (Cont.)

During 2025/26**:**
First disablement pension claims were cleared, on average, in approximately 17 calendar months (361 working days) **and second/subsequent disablement claims were cleared, on average, in approximately 18 calendar months** (398 working days).
In 2020/21 the average claim clearance time was significantly higher than the previous year due to the impact of COVID-19 on the administration of the WPS and ability to obtain medical evidence to inform decision making. During 2021/22 and, for first claims, 2022/23 claim clearance times reduced to pre-pandemic levels due to the return to normality and clearing of the backlog following COVID-19, and the improvements in the way claims were processed at the initial stage. These improvements included reaching out for evidence sooner than was previously done, obtaining a factual report from the most appropriate member of the multidisciplinary primary care team rather than having to go through medical examination by the Centre for Health and Disability Assessments, and the introduction of an electronic logging system for claimant's files, which has streamlined the claims processing workflow.

Appeals were cleared, on average, in approximately 12 calendar months (156 working days). The reduction seen between 2021/22 and 2023/24 was partly due to an intentional effort to clear the backlog created during COVID-19. It should be noted that the MOD has limited control over the length of time it takes for evidence to be gathered and no control over the time taken for the tribunal to arrange a hearing date once the completed evidence bundle has been sent. For further information on the Tribunal process, please see the Background Quality Report.

There were a number of reasons for the increase in clearance times observed across all claim types in 2025/26. The War Pension Scheme (WPS) IT system transitioned to Compendia Touch (CT) in September 2024. Following digitisation in November 2022, claim volumes increased, which contributed to a backlog as processing capacity adjusted to the higher demand. A WPS taskforce is driving improvements, enabling the MOD to start reducing the claim backlogs.

(Tables 2, 3, 4, & 5 Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Claim Outcomes

This section provides summary information on the outcomes of claims and appeals cleared under the WPS during 2025/26.

Decisions are made following the advice of medical advisors on whether a claim is service-attributable.

First disablement claims, and **second/subsequent claims** determined to be service-attributable are awarded a disablement percentage between 0% and 100%:

a) Those awarded at 20% - 100% are paid an ongoing war pension.

b) Those awarded at 1% - 19% are paid a one-off gratuity (lump sum) payment.

c) Service-attributable cases determined not to be severe enough to impact on daily life are awarded a nil (0%) award.

War widows'/widowers' claims are either awarded or rejected with successful widows/widowers paid an ongoing war pension. Claim outcomes for war widows'/widowers' do not reflect where a review has changed an initial decision.

Full details of rates payable under the scheme can be found on the webpage for war disablement pension 2025 rates.

During 2025/26:

There were a total of **1,515** first disablement claims and **432** war widows'/widowers' claims cleared.

Just over two thirds (69%) of all first disablement claims were awarded compensation (1,041) in the form of a gratuity payment or ongoing war pension.

Just over four in ten (41%) of Second/subsequent disablement claims were awarded compensation or resulted in an increased entitlement (784).

Just over half (52%) of war widows'/widowers' claims were successful (224).

Over one-third (35%) of all entitlement appeals were successful (35[b]).

[b] Number is rounded to nearest five in order to protect personal information as governed by Data Protection Legislation.

The number of claims cleared per year has reduced across all claim types between 2021/22 and 2025/26.

The reduction in the number of claims cleared each year since 2021/22 has mainly been driven by:

- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on registered claims during the first two years,
- the reduction in staffing capacity when resource is reallocated, for example, to the development of the new claims management and,
- the introduction of the new system in September 2024, requiring new internal processes and upskilling, reducing capability to process and clear claims.

(Tables 6, 7 & 8, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Claim Outcomes (Cont.)

Success rates varied across the different types of claims and appeals as they all have different eligibility criteria.

The proportion of first disablement claims which were successful and the proportion awarded nil both significantly differed from the previous year (69% successful in 2025/26 compared with 64% in 2024/25; 20% awarded nil in 2025/26 compared with 24% in 2024/25).

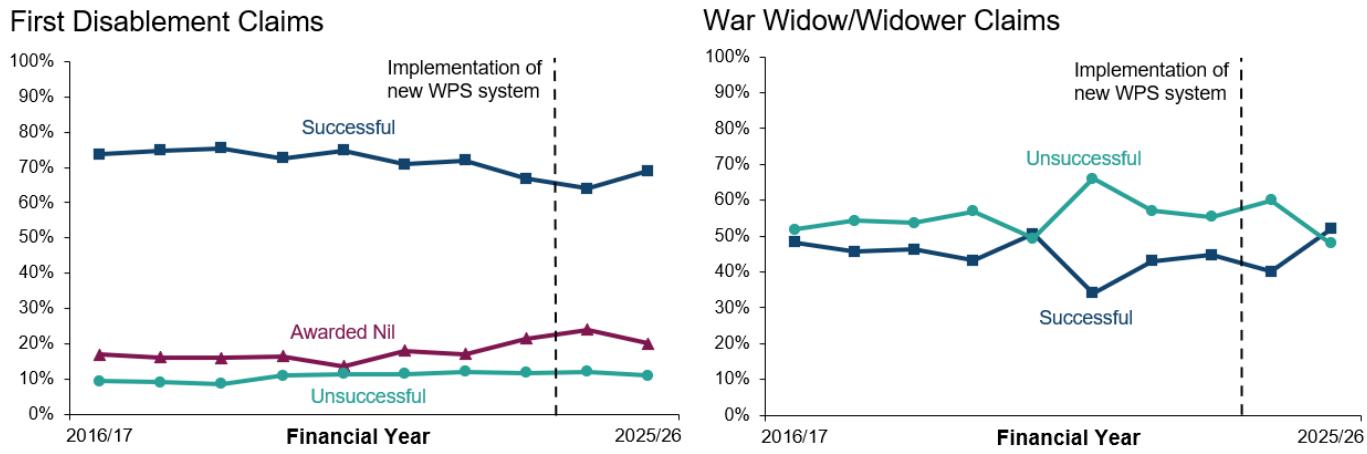
Just over half (52%) of war widows'/widowers' claims have been accepted during 2025/26 (Figure 3). This is highest figure in the past five years and was significantly different from the previous year. War widows'/widowers' claims are automatically generated under the WPS following a death in service where the individual joined the UK armed forces before 6 April 2005. Where death is attributable to service after this date, the WPS claim is rejected, and compensation is awarded under the AFCS.

Second disablement claims include claims for further conditions or deterioration of an existing condition. They also included reviews made by the MOD to assess whether the level of disablement has changed since the initial assessment was made. Just over four in ten (41%) of second/subsequent disablement claims were awarded compensation or resulted in an increased entitlement which was not significantly different to the previous year. As the claim results in a current assessment, with the decision based on current medical evidence, the pension awarded can be reduced in value. During 2025/26 <1% (n=3) of second/subsequent claims cleared resulted in a reduced outcome.

Across the years, disablement entitlement appeal success rates were lower than first disablement claims since in most cases the original claim outcome resulted from a fair assessment (Table 8, Supplementary tables).

Figure 3: War Pension Scheme cleared claims by claim type[1,2], outcome[3,4] and financial year the claim was cleared, percentages of cleared claims

1 April 2016 to 31 March 2026



Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch

1. Figures include first disablement claims only due to the complexity of second/subsequent claim outcomes.
2. Widows'/Widowers' claims figures exclude widows'/widowers' reviews.
3. Successful awards includes those awarded a gratuity payment (at 1-19%), a war pension (at 20-100%) or those with an unknown disablement percentage.
4. Nil awards are not applicable for war widows/widowers.

(Tables 6, 7 & 8, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

War Pension Recipients

This section provides summary statistics on the numbers of disablement pensioners and war widows/widowers in receipt of an ongoing war pension as at 31 March each year, between 2017 and 2026. Demographic information is also presented for those in receipt of a pension as at 31 March 2026.

Disablement pensioners: Ex-UK armed forces personnel in receipt of an ongoing war pension for a service-attributable injury/illness at a disablement percentage of 20% or above.

War widows/widowers: Those in receipt of an ongoing war pension following the death of their partner or spouse caused, or substantially hastened, by service.

As at 31 March 2026, there were **73,924 disablement pensioners** in receipt of an ongoing war pension of which:

- 94% were male, and just over half (55%) were of retirement age (aged 65+).

As at 31 March 2026, there were **8,558 war widows/widowers** in receipt of an ongoing war pension, of which:

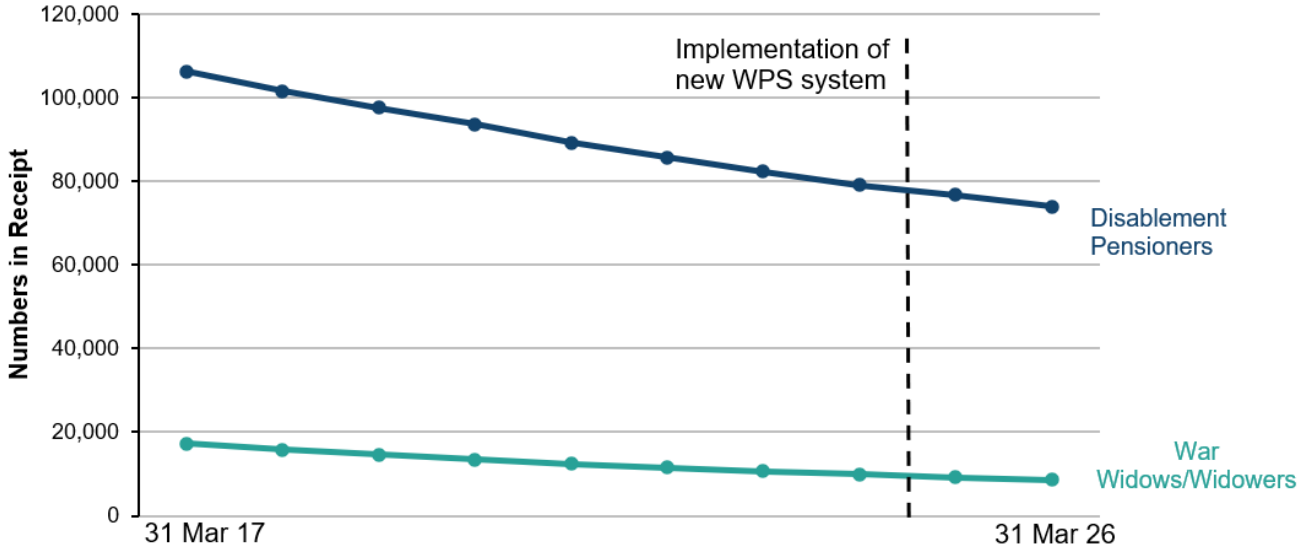
- Nearly all (>99%) were female, and 88% were of retirement age (aged 65+).

There was a 4% decrease in the total number of recipients from the previous year, which has been decreasing at a consistent rate each year since 2016/17.

Annual numbers of disablement pensioners and war widows/widowers in receipt of an ongoing pension under the WPS have consistently decreased by approximately 3% to 5% and by approximately 6% to 9% respectively each year since 31 March 2017 (Figure 4). This is the result of the number of pension recipients leaving the scheme each year remaining higher than the number of successful claimants entering the scheme. The main reason for the cessation of a pension was death due to the age profile of disablement pensioners and war widows/widowers as discussed on page 12. Pensions may also cease for other reasons such as: failure to draw the pension for one year; refusal to undergo a medical examination or provide medical evidence; or imprisonment.

Figure 4: Disablement Pensioners and War Widows/Widowers in receipt of an ongoing pension, as at financial year end, numbers

As at 31 March 2017 to as at 31 March 2026



Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch

(Tables 9 to 14, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

War Pension Recipients (Cont.)

Disablement Pensioners

The demographic profile of disablement pensioners was as follows:

- More than **9 in 10 (94%)** were **male.**
- Just over **half (55%)** were of **retirement age (65+).**
- Over **one-quarter (28%)** were located in the **South-East** and **South-West** of England.
- **Two-thirds (66%)** were in receipt of a war pension at a disablement percentage between 20% and 30% (see box at the bottom of the page for an explanation of disablement percentages).

The demographic profile of disablement pensioners is in line with veteran findings in the ONS England and Wales Census 2021, reporting that 86% of veterans were male, 53% of veterans were of retirement age, and data from the ONS England and Wales 2021 Census that showed that 31% of veterans in England and Wales were located in the South East and South West of England.

War Widows/Widowers

The demographic profile of war widows/widowers is as follows:

- More than **9 in 10 (>99%)** were **female**
- Almost **9 in 10 (88%)** were of retirement age **(65+)**
- Almost **one-third (32%)** were located in the **South-East** and **South-West** of England.

The age profile of war widows/widowers is driven by two factors:

- The high volume of older widows/widowers as a result of deaths during the Second World War, and subsequent National Service which ended in 1960.
- The introduction of the AFCS which has compensated for deaths attributable to time spent in service after 6 April 2005, resulting in fewer younger widows/widowers joining the WPS.

Disablement Percentage

20	least severe
30	
40	
50	
60	
70	
80	
90	
100	most severe

Using evidence supplied from the claimant and advice from medical advisors, the MOD will award claimants with severe enough disabilities a 'disablement percentage' ranging from 20% (least severe) to 100% (most severe).

(Tables 9 to 14, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Causes of Disablement

Due to continued external interest, this section provides information on awards made under the WPS for service-attributable mental health conditions and mesothelioma.

Information on injuries/illnesses is recorded on Compendia Touch (CT) in the form of a medical diagnosis code and a free-text medical diagnosis description. The code and description are based on the medical evidence and diagnosis obtained once a claim has been registered with the MOD. Due to the free text nature of this information, it was not possible to provide a full summary of all injuries/illnesses that have been awarded compensation under the War Pension Scheme. However, records can be interrogated for specific condition(s).

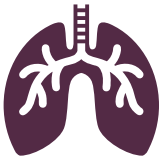
Awards for mental health conditions

As at 31 March 2026:

14,419 (20%) of disablement pensioners were in receipt of a War Pension for **mental disorders.**
Of which, **8,917** were specifically for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder **(PTSD).**
Awards made for mental health disorders are estimates and represent a minimum, as they were primarily identified through free text searches which may not capture all relevant claims. Information on the search terms used can be found on page 18 of this bulletin and in the Background Quality Report.

Awards for mesothelioma

Between 1 April 2017 (date of first payments) and 31 March 2026:



910 ex-service personnel diagnosed with mesothelioma had elected to receive the lump sum payment instead of receiving a regular disablement pension.

Since 16 December 2015, veterans who had been diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma as a result of asbestos exposure through their service in the armed forces have been entitled to receive a lump sum payment of up to £140,000 instead of receiving an ongoing disablement pension. These payments started being paid from 1 April 2016. Further details on the introduction of these lump sum payments can be found in the Background Quality Report.

(Tables 15 and 15a, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch, MOD Pensions Finance Team**

Recipients of Supplementary Allowances

This section provides summary statistics on disablement pensioners and war widows/widowers in receipt of supplementary allowances as at 31 March 2026. Eligible disablement pensioners and war widows/widowers are able to claim for additional financial support for a range of care needs, including additional costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement.

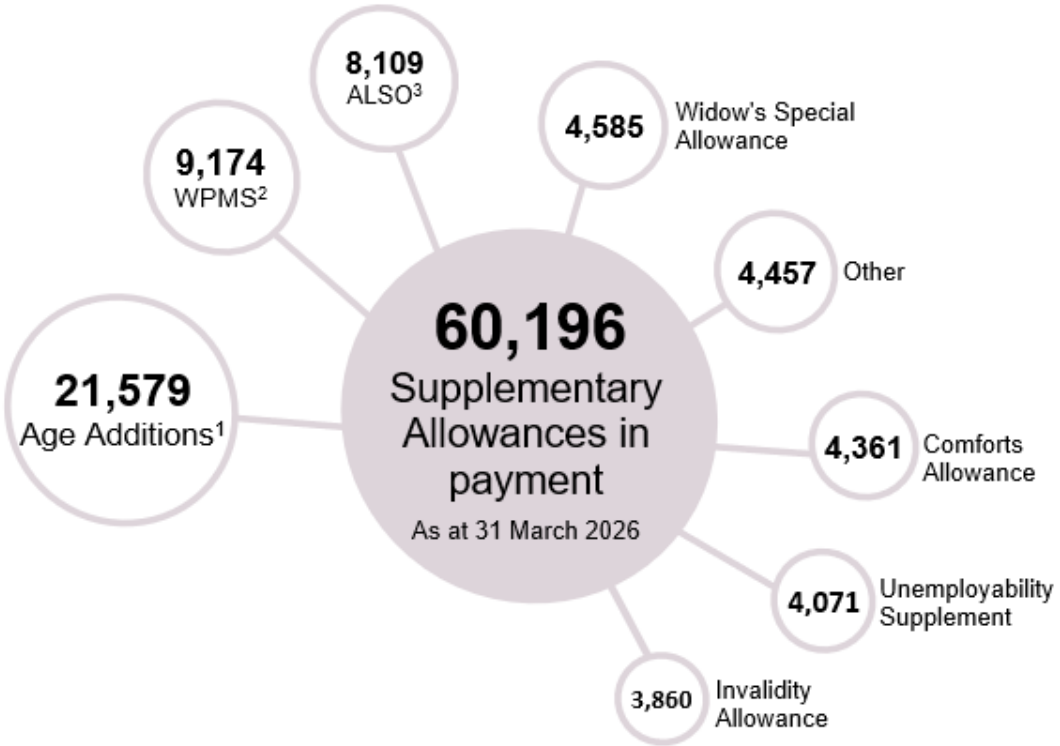
As at 31 March 2026:

Age addition allowances made up over **one-third (36%)** of all supplementary allowances in payment, with just under **nine in ten (86%)** war widows/widowers and just under **two in ten (19%)** disablement pensioners in receipt of this allowance.

Pensioners are able to claim for multiple supplementary allowances and therefore may be in receipt of more than one allowance.

Age Addition Allowance: This is paid out from age 65 to disablement pensioners whose disablement is assessed at 40% or more. An Age 80 addition allowance is paid to all disablement pensioners aged 80 or over. The age allowances are made to help a pensioner cope with the increased costs associated with the burden of ageing and having a disablement, rather than any acceptance that the disablement worsens with age.

Figure 5: Supplementary Allowances in payment to Disablement Pensioners and War Widows/Widowers as at financial year end, numbers
As at 31 March 2026



Source: Compendia Touch
1. Age Additions includes Age Addition Allowance and Age 80 Additions
2. WPMS stands for War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement
3. ALSO stands for Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation

(Table 16, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch**

Expenditure

This section provides information on the financial expenditure under the War Pension Scheme during the past five financial years between 2021/22 and 2025/26.

In 2025/26, the total pension and supplementary allowances expenditure was **£632.4 million.**

Of which, **£495.2 million** was disablement pensioner expenditure and **£137.2 million** was war widows/widowers expenditure.

As at 31 March 2026, the total mesothelioma lump sum payment expenditure had been **£125.8 million** since its introduction on 16 December 2015. £13.4 million of this expenditure was accumulated during 2025/26 (this figure is included in the £495.2 million disablement pensioner expenditure).

As at 31 March 2026, the average weekly amount received by disablement pensioners was **£126.17** per week. This was compared to **£302.59** per week for war widows/widowers.

The average weekly amount received for disablement pensioners was lower compared to war widows/widowers. The majority of pensions in payment to disablement pensioners were at the lower disablement percentages, which equate to lower financial amounts compared to the standard war widows'/widowers' pension rate which compensates for service-attributable death.

The financial information supplied by the MOD Pension Finance team is provided on an accrual basis. Expected expenditure is recorded when a claim is submitted and then later revised if this claim is withdrawn or rejected. Expenditure figures may therefore differ to the amount of actual monies paid out in a given time period, as they may include pending cases that are due to be paid but have not yet been paid or pending claims that go on to be rejected at a later date.

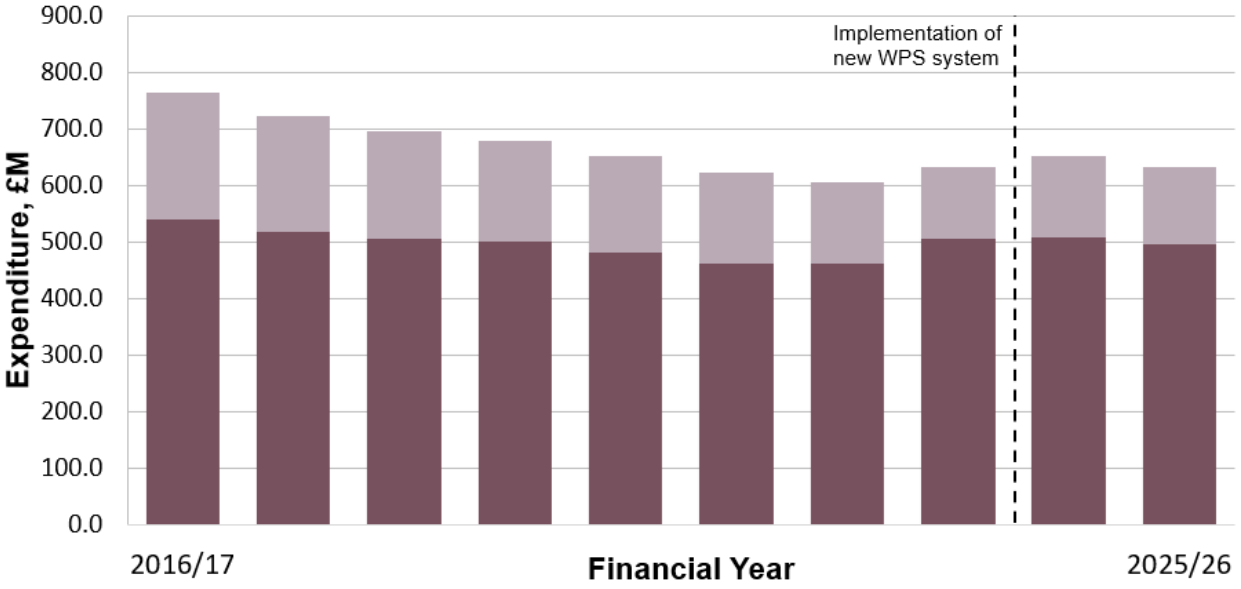
(Tables 18 and 19, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch, MOD Pensions Finance Team**

Expenditure (Cont.)

Figure 6 shows the general decrease in both disablement pensioner expenditure and war widows/widowers expenditure over the previous 10 financial years, with an overall 8% decrease in disablement pensioner expenditure (from £541.2 million in 2016/17) and 38% decrease in war widows/widowers expenditure (from £223.6 million in 2016/17) between 2016/17 and 2025/26. This reflects the decrease in the number of disablement pensioner and war widows/widowers in payment (see page 11). The increase in expenditure seen in 2023/24 and 2024/25, were due to the higher-than-usual uprating of War Pensions benefits and allowances in April 2022 and April 2023, linked to the previous September's CPI as required by legislation, despite the continued decline in recipients.

Figure 6: War Pension Scheme expenditure[1] by expenditure type and financial year, £M

1 April 2017 to 31 March 2026



Source: MOD Pensions Finance Team

1. Disablement pensioners include gratuity payments and those who opted to take the mesothelioma lump sum payment.

(Tables 18 and 19, Supplementary tables) **Source: War Pension Computer System, Compendia Touch, MOD Pensions Finance Team**

Methodology

This section provides a brief summary of the methodology and data sources; more detailed information is available in the background quality report for this bulletin.

Data Sources

Figures presented in this bulletin were compiled from data stored on the War Pension Computer System (WPCS) and Compendia Touch (CT). Quarterly data extracts were received from the WPCS/CT which were used to compile the figures provided. The area within the MOD which administer the WPS is responsible for ensuring the quality of WPCS/CT data supplied.

Annual data are received from the MOD Pensions Finance Team which are used to report on financial expenditure under the WPS.

Annual figures are received from the MOD Pensions Finance Team for individuals who have opted to receive the mesothelioma lump sum payment, including the total expenditure under the scheme.

Data Coverage

The data presented include all regular and reserve ex-service personnel, war widows/widowers and other dependants (including adult dependants, children, unmarried dependants, war orphans, and war parents) who have claimed for compensation under the War Pension Scheme between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2026.

Note that recipients of the mesothelioma lump sum payment are additional to all other claimants of a disablement pension. These individuals are not recorded on the WPCS/CT and are therefore not included within disablement pension figures presented.

A claimant was eligible for consideration under the WPS where disablement or death has occurred as a result of service in the UK armed forces, prior to 6 April 2005. In addition, awards may also be made where disablement or death has occurred as a result of:

- **War-time service in the Naval Auxiliary Service, or the Mercantile Marine.**
- **Service in the Polish Forces under British command during World War Two.**
- **A civilian or a member of a civil defence organisation was the direct result of an injury sustained as a result of enemy action in World War Two.**

Claims for injuries/illnesses as a result of service cannot be made until an individual has left the UK armed forces.

Methodology (cont.)

Illnesses and injuries awarded under the WPS are recorded in both a free-text field and as a medical diagnosis code. To produce the figures for War Pensions in payment for mental health conditions, records with a medical diagnosis code 4000 to 4008, indicating a mental disorder, were identified. The free-text field was also searched for terms such as ‘PTSD’, ‘psych’, ‘phobia’, ‘depression’, ‘adjustment’, ‘anxiety’, ‘panic’, ‘dysthymic’, ‘schizophrenia’, ‘mood disorder’, 'substance abuse' and ‘mania’, as well as any probable misspellings or alternate spellings. To produce the figures for War Pensions in payment for PTSD, a medical diagnosis code of 4006 was used and the free-text field was searched for ‘post traumatic stress’, ‘PTSD’, or ‘post-traumatic stress’. As conditions are sometimes spelt incorrectly it was possible that some records with reference to mental health have not been identified. Therefore, the figures supplied should be treated as a minimum.

Calculation of claim clearance times

Information on WPS claim clearance times has been presented as a median average with an inter-quartile range, rather than a mean average, minimum and maximum as these statistics were affected less by outliers. An outlier is an observation within a dataset that appears to be inconsistent with the remainder of the dataset.

- The median is the value in the center of the data set when they are arranged from smallest to largest.
- A quartile is any of three values (first/lower quartile, second quartile (median), third/upper quartile) that divides the sorted (from smallest value to largest value) dataset into four equal parts. The lower quartile (LQ) is the value that 25% of the values in the dataset will be below. The upper quartile (UQ) is the value that 75% of the values in the dataset will be below.
- The inter-quartile range (IQR) is the range in which the middle 50% of the data points fall (i.e. the distance between the lower and upper quartile). The longer the inter-quartile range the wider the spread of data.

Significance test

The Mann-Whitney U test was used to identify if there were significant differences between clearance times over time. The significance test provided confidence to state that an observed difference between the clearance times was a real difference and did not occur due to chance. A significance level of 0.05 has been used throughout this report.

The z test difference between two proportions was used to identify if there were significant differences between cleared claim success rates over time. The significance test provided confidence to state that an observed difference between the percentages was a real difference and did not occur due to chance. A significance level of 0.05 has been used throughout this report.

Glossary

Adult Dependant: Adult relatives, i.e. sister, brother, aunt or uncle etc., for whom the service person was financially responsible.

Age 80 addition (NI) (Disablement & Widow/Widower): This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner and a war widow/widower aged 80 or over.

Age addition allowance: This may be paid to a war disablement pensioner who is aged 65 or over and whose disablement is assessed at 40% or more. A war widow/widower may receive an additional allowance at age 65 which is increased at age 70, and again at age 80.

Allowance for Lowered Standard of Occupation (ALSO): This may be paid if a disablement pensioner's earning capacity is reduced because their pensioned disablement permanently prevents them following their regular occupation. To gain entitlement new claimants must be under age 65, with a disablement percentage of at least 40%. This allowance plus their basic War Disablement Pension cannot exceed the 100% disablement pension rate.

Appeal: If a claimant is not satisfied with the outcome of any of their claims they may lodge an appeal to an appropriate Tribunal.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS): Compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve forces. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death attributable to service where the cause occurred on or after 6 April 2005.

Awarded 0%: The doctor may decide from the medical evidence that although the condition was caused by service or wartime experience, if it is not causing the person a problem at the moment then they will be awarded an assessment of nil.

Cleared Claim: A claim is classed as cleared when the MOD issue a letter to the claimant informing them of the outcome of their claim or appeal.

Comforts Allowance (COMF): This may be paid to a severely disabled pensioner who is receiving Constant Attendance Allowance or Unemployability Supplement or both. It is intended to help with the extra expenses associated with severe disablement.

Disablement pensioner: Ex-UK armed forces service personnel with an injury/illness as a result of service with a disablement percentage of 20% or above.

Disablement Percentage: First and second/subsequent claims are assessed by a doctor, who then gives a percentage of up to 100% dependent on how disabled the person is.

Gratuity Payment: If a disablement is assessed at less than 20%, personnel are paid a lump sum called a gratuity. The amount depends on the extent of the disablement and how long the person is likely to be disabled.

Glossary (Cont.)

Registered Claim: A claim is classed as registered when the MOD begin a workflow on Compendia Touch (CT) for a claim.

Second/Subsequent Claim: Collective title for claims submitted at a later date following their initial claim. These include:

> **Conditional list review:** These cases arise because the MOD have previously made an interim assessment for a limited period because the level of disablement was likely to change. A review date is calculated so that disablement can be reassessed before the given period expires.
>
> **Departmental review:** A review can be carried out to reassess a case when a condition has been rejected and an award for a war pension has not been made.
>
> **Deterioration claims:** An application can be made to increase a war pension if an accepted condition has worsened, or, if another condition has made the accepted war pension disablement worse.
>
> **Further condition claims:** Disablement pensioners who already have entitlement to a war disablement pension can claim for an additional medical condition.

Supplementary Allowance: Everyone in receipt of a War Pension can claim for extra allowances to help with the extra costs of a long-term health condition or disability.

Tribunal: Tribunals hear appeals from all claimants who have disagreed with the decision made by the MOD on the outcome of their claim. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Pensions Appeal Tribunal operates, and in England and Wales, appeals are heard at the First-tier Tribunal (War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Chamber). The Upper-tier Tribunal (Administrative Appeals Chamber) hears appeals against decisions made by the First-tier and Pensions Appeal Tribunals.

Unmarried Dependant: Partner who lived with the ex-service person for at least 6 months before his enlistment, was maintained by him and who has borne his child**.**

War Orphan: Child of deceased service person who has no surviving mother or father. Child whose mother was divorced from a service person at the time of death. Child who is not in the care of the surviving parent.

War Parent: Parent of the deceased service person.

War Pension Scheme (WPS): No fault compensation scheme for all members of the regular and reserve force. It provides compensation for all injuries, ill-health and death caused or made worse by service from WW1 in 1914 to 5 April 2005. Ex-service personnel are only eligible to claim once they've left the services.

War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS): This is intended to help with the mobility costs of a pensioner who is unable to walk, or virtually unable to walk. New claimants must have a service disablement of at least 40%. It is paid to double amputees and to those pensioners who need help getting about because they are both deaf and blind as a result of their pensioned disablement.

War widow/widower: Spouse of ex-service person whose death was whilst in service or related to a disablement due to service prior to 6 April 2005.

Glossary (Cont.)

War widows'/widowers' review: A review can be carried out where there is further evidence which could change the outcome of a claim.

War widow's/widower's Special Allowance: This is a Supplementary Pension payable to "pre-1973 war widows/widowers" (the widows/widowers of service personnel who died or left the services before 31 March 1973, and who did not benefit from the improvements made from that date to the MOD's Armed Forces Pension Scheme).

Working day: Any day in which legal business can be conducted. In this report a working day is any day apart from a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday

For further definitions please see Background Quality Report.

Further Information

Symbols

[c] Suppressed (greater than zero but fewer than 3, or secondary suppression – see disclosure control note for details)
[r] Revised
[p] Provisional
| Break in series

Disclosure Control

In line with the directives of the JSP 200, disclosure control is conducted on all statistical information provided by the MOD to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. Within these statistics, a risk of disclosure has been considered to be high where numbers presented are fewer than three. In cases where a risk of disclosure exists, one of three appropriate disclosure control methods have been applied:

Figures have been suppressed:

In most cases where there may be a risk of disclosure, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked as '[c]'. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, secondary suppression has been applied so that numbers cannot be derived from totals or subtotals. In most cases the secondary suppression has been applied to the next smallest figures.

Figures have been grouped:

Where there is a risk of disclosure, relevant categories across columns or rows have been grouped in order to present larger numbers. This method of suppression has been applied to Tables 12, 13, 13a and 14 of the Supplementary tables.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five:

In cases where the suppression of information would result in larger numbers being 'hidden' as a result of secondary suppression and it has not been possible to group columns and/or rows, figures have been rounded to the nearest five. This method of suppression has been applied to Tables 8, 12, 13 and 13a in the Supplementary tables. Figures have been rounded individually, meaning totals may not be equal to the sum of their components. Where figures have been rounded to the nearest five in Supplementary tables, rounded figures are also presented in the bulletin.

Revisions

The figures reported are based on the WPCS/CT quarterly data extracts and will be correct as at the time each extract was taken. Unless specified, previous years are not recalculated and therefore any update to claim information made on the WPCS/CT after each quarterly snapshot will not be reflected in the report.

Historical data will only be revised if errors are found in the data processing or statistical methods used during their publication. If an error was found all historical data in the latest publication would be revised, based on the quarterly snapshots of data, and Defence Statistics will highlight the error and the impact on the numbers presented.

Due to low data coverage in 2024/25, an alternate cleared date was used in the previous report; in addition, there were a high proportion of cleared claims with unknown outcomes. Improved data coverage has enabled revision of the 2024/25 cleared appeal figures in Table 8 of the supplementary tables, resulting in a 41% increase in appeals and no unknown outcomes. This revision does not change the overall message: cleared appeals have

declined year on year since 2021/22, and outcomes remain more likely to be disallowed or upheld than allowed or increased.

Scheme information
Further information on the WPS and other MOD compensation schemes can be found on the GOV.UK website at WPS and AFCS as well as in the Common law compensation.

Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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Due to hybrid working arrangements, there can be delays in receiving materials sent to the postal address, with email being the recommended means of communication.

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence. For more information, see: Link to government page with information on Freedom of Information requests.

Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

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