



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/02294

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Robert Campbell  
request-390070-  
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13 March 2017

Dear Mr Campbell,

Thank you for your email of the 16 February 2017 requesting the following information:

- "1. The number of applications to the AFCS for the year 2016.*
  - 2. The number of rejected claims.*
  - 3. The number of requests for a reconsideration of award.*
  - 4. The number of appeals submitted.*
- All for 2016."*

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. Some of the information falls within the scope of the absolute exemption provided under section 44 (Prohibitions on Disclosure) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Information is published biannually as at 31 March and 30 September, presented by financial year. The latest published information (as at 30 September 2016) is already in the public domain published within the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) Statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-financial-year-201617>

The information you requested (as at 30 September 2016) can be located in the following tables within the Excel tables:

1. Information pertaining to the number of applications to the AFCS (registered claims), requests for reconsiderations (reconsiderations registered) and appeals submitted (appeals registered) can be found within Table 1.
2. Information pertaining to rejected claims can be found in Table 2.

Section 44(1)(a) has been applied as the disclosure of some of the information is prohibited by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Defence Statistics release biannual updates on the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme as a National Statistic publication. In accordance with the Code of

Practice for the release of National and Official Statistics, as set out in the 2007 Act, we are unable to provide the data for the whole time period until the next statistical release in the summer. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note:

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service that occurred on or after that date. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pension Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering AFCS in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk).

A biannual National Statistic provides summary statistics on claims and awards made under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme, paying compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service. This is published on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>. The latest update was released on 8 December 2016.

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 me in the first instance. 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](mailto: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 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)