

From: Sandra Lloyd Acting Hd of Secretariat



Ministry
of Defence



Service Personnel
& Veterans Agency

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Tomlinson House
Norcross
FY5 3WP

Ms Meredith Ong
E-mail: [request-170155-
e5efc2a8@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-170155-e5efc2a8@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Reference: 24-07-2013-125852-012

21 August 2013

Dear Ms Ong,

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 July to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) asking for information regarding claims for compensation from Service personnel. Your e-mail has been accepted as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for the following information:

- 1. How many servicemen and women have been denied benefits or face reduced benefits after being examined by ATOS HCP's? Please give the figure from APRIL 2012 to APRIL 2013.*
- 2. Of this figure, how many have appealed and are awaiting a tribunal?*
- 3. How many have been successful within this time frame?*
- 4. How many personnel have been declared disabled since the invasion of Afghanistan?*

Medical Boards conducted by ATOS only apply to claims for compensation under the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) and not for the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). Therefore, the figures that follow (which in line with Defence Statistics' rounding policy have been rounded to the nearest 5) represent claims under the WPS only.

During the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, 30 first claims, where a medical examination had been conducted by ATOS, were unsuccessful and of these, less than five registered an appeal. Although details of the number that are awaiting a tribunal are not held, it is unlikely that any of the unsuccessful claimants would have yet reached that stage in the process.

During the same time period, 490 first claims, where a medical examination had been conducted by ATOS were successful.

The MOD does not hold a list of how many personnel have been '*declared disabled*' since the invasion of Afghanistan. Defence Statistics (Health) do, however, publish statistical data about the number of Service personnel discharged for medical reasons, and this can be found at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=MED_DIS.

You may also be interested that the Department does intend to publish, within the next year, an official statistic on the types of injuries sustained by UK Service Personnel in Afghanistan. It will provide information such as the numbers subject to loss of sight and hearing loss.

Further information on overall success rates of WPS and AFCS claims and appeals can be found at the Defence Statistics website at: www.dasa.mod.uk

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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 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.gov.uk>.

I hope this reply is helpful and explains the position.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Lloyd', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Sandra Lloyd