

Factsheet 4 Veterans and War Pensions - War Pensions Scheme only

We use the term “veteran” to mean all those who have served in the UK Armed Forces, their widow(er)s and dependants. It does not matter how long you were in the Armed Forces and you do not need to have seen active service.

War Disablement Pension:

You can claim a War Disablement Pension under the War Pensions Scheme if you are no longer serving in HM Armed Forces and your claimed disablement arose before 6 April 2005.

You can also claim under the War Pensions Scheme if you were;

- injured or disabled through serving in Her Majesty’s (HM) Armed Forces, including The Ulster Defence Regiment, now known as the Royal Irish Regiment, the Home Guard and nursing and auxiliary services;
- a civil defence volunteer (CDV) disabled through serving as a CDV;
- a civilian disabled as a result of enemy action in the 1939 to 1945 war;
- a merchant seaman, a member of the naval auxiliary services or a coastguard and you were disabled because of an injury you received or a disease suffered because of conditions during a war or because you were a prisoner of war or
- a member of the Polish Forces under British Command who served in the 1939 to 1945 war, or in the Polish Resettlement Forces and you were injured or disabled through this service.

Where disablement was caused by Service in HM Armed Forces on or after 6 April 2005, claims should be made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

A War Pension cannot be paid until service in the UK Armed Forces has ended.

A claim for War Disablement Pension will succeed if disablement is due to an injury or disease, which is attributable to or aggravated by service.

An **ATTRIBUTABLE** condition is one that is caused by service.

An **AGGRAVATED** condition is one that:

- existed before service and was made worse by factors of service, **OR**
- arose during service, was not caused by factors of service but was made worse by them

For further information please contact Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:

Free Veterans Helpline 0800 169 2277

Textphone 0800 169 3458

Telephone Number (Overseas) +44 1253 866043

Website www.veterans-uk.info

An injury can also be a wound or disease. |

An injury can be caused by an accident or an incident. |

Disablement includes both physical and mental injury or damage.

Claims received from Civilians, Civil Defence Volunteers, Coastguards, Merchant Seamen or Naval Auxiliary Services **must** show that the disablement was caused by a “qualifying injury” or being a prisoner of war. The explanation of a “qualifying injury” is explained fully on the appropriate claim form. Time limits for claiming may apply.

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