



Veterans' Review Board

A guide to understanding your decision

What does the VRB decision mean?

The VRB may “affirm”, “vary”, “set aside” or “set aside and remit” the decision or determination being reviewed.

What does an “affirm” mean?

Where the VRB affirms the decision/determination, it may look like this:

- **AFFIRM** the determination under review. This means that the MRCC determination dated 1 January 2020 is unchanged.

If the VRB affirms the decision/determination, it means the decision/determination made by the Commission is not changed. In this example, it means that this part of the claim has not been successful.

What does a “set aside” mean?

Where the VRB sets aside the decision/determination, it may look like this:

- **SET ASIDE** the determination under review and substitute a determination that liability is accepted for depressive disorder as a condition being related to the claimant’s peacetime service.

OR

- **SET ASIDE** the determination under review and substitute a determination that the diagnosis of the condition is post traumatic stress disorder and that it is related to the claimant’s peacetime service.

In these two examples, the VRB agrees that the decision/determination was wrong and has changed the decision/determination. The important words to note are that the VRB has decided the condition is related to the relevant service. In both examples, it means part of the claim has been successful. In the second example, it is also important to note the VRB has substituted a new diagnosis for the claimed condition.

In some cases, the VRB may also set aside the decision/determination and it may look like this:

- **SET ASIDE** the determination under review and substitute a determination that the diagnosis of the condition is post traumatic stress disorder and that it is not related to the claimant's peacetime service.

This means that the VRB has substituted a new diagnosis for the claimed condition. However, as the VRB has decided the condition is not related to the relevant service, it means that this part of the claim has not been successful.

What does "remit" mean?

If the VRB sets aside and remits the decision/determination, this means it is sending the matter, or part of the matter back to the department to be decided again in accordance with its instructions or recommendations.

What does a "vary" mean?

Where the VRB varies the decision/determination, it may look like this:

- The decision under review is **VARIED** so as to provide that the veteran is entitled to receive 100% of the general rate of disability pension from 1 January 2020.

OR

- The Board **VARIES** the determination under review so as to add the following:
 - (a) the applicant does not suffer chondromalacia patellae of his right knee; and
 - (b) although he suffers from the condition of osteoarthritis of his right knee it is not related to the claimant's peacetime service.

If the VRB varies the decision, it means the decision has been changed or altered in some way. In the first example, the applicant has been partly successful, with a changed date of effect.

In the second example, the VRB has substituted a new diagnosis for the claimed condition. However, as the VRB has decided the condition is not related to the relevant service, it means that this part of the claim has not been successful.

How can I find out more about my decision?

If you are unclear what your decision means, please ask the staff in your local VRB registry.

The VRB's Service Charter sets out the standards of service you can expect from us and how to make a complaint if you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your case. It is available on our website or you can ask us to send it to you.