



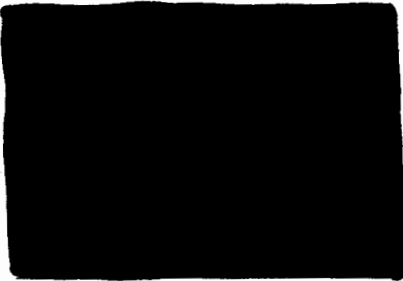
Ministry  
of Defence

[REDACTED]

Defence Equipment and Support  
Secretariat  
Joint Support Chain  
#2043 Maple Oa  
Ministry of Defence  
Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: dessec-polsecl-jsc-wpns@  
mod.uk



Our Reference:  
FOI2015/04315  
Date:  
9 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Request for Information

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2015. You asked a number of questions regarding:

**A: Ten Man Operational Ration Pack Tender 2005-2006**

**B: MOD's position re our clients and the charity UK4U Thanks in Autumn/Winter of 2007**

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

In my letter of 11 June 2015 I informed you that we believed that some of the information you requested fell within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA.

A Public Interest Test (PIT) has been carried out to decide if the information can be released. Section 43(2) provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any organisation or person holding it, including the MOD and its contractors. However, as result of this work we have concluded that the document that was the subject of the PIT is not the '*document in which that decision was first recorded*' (your Question 1 below). It is, instead, information that helped to inform the decision. As such we have concluded that it is not in scope of your question 1.

To address your questions in turn:

**Q1: On what date was it decided that Far-Side Marketing was no longer in contention for the 10 man Operational Ration Pack contract and please provide a copy of the document in which that decision was first recorded?**

**Q2: On what date were Far-Side Marketing informed that they were not in contention and please provide a copy of the letter of notification?**

Given that this contract was awarded some nine years ago, we have been unable to determine from our records when it was first decided that Far-Side Marketing was no longer in contention for this contract. However, Far-Side Marketing were notified as soon as the clarification exercise had concluded and the approvals had been secured for the announcement of the preferred bidder. This was advised to Far-Side Marketing in the Authority's letter date 8 May 2006, a copy is attached.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

**Q3: In March 2006 Brigadier Martin called in to see Mr Briggs in Levedon on his way to a meeting in Andover with General Malcolm Wood. He said that he had his recommendation for the supplier of the 10 man Ration Pack in his briefcase with him, and he tapped his briefcase. What was the recommendation to General Malcolm Wood in his briefcase to which he was referring, and please provide a copy of that recommendation?**

We do not know what documents were in Brigadier Martin's briefcase when he met with Mr Briggs in March 2006.

**Q4: Which Companies were still in contention for this contract in March 2006?**

Far-Side Marketing, The Consortium (Trowbridge), Purple Foodservice Ltd and 3663 were still in contention for the contract in March 2006.

**Q 5 - 12**

With regard to Questions 5-12 of your request the information is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

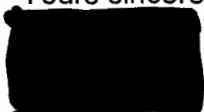
If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Defence Equipment & Support

and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.A black horizontal redaction bar covering the name of the sender.

DE&S Secretariat