Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email sent to the Scotland Office on 18 August 2012.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Full details of organisations in receipt of/awarded contracts totalling in excess of £500,000 for services provided to the department, over the last five years for which figures are available.

I would like the response to include details of the organisation involved, the value of the contract, a description of the services to be provided, and the length and end-date of the arrangement.

The Scotland Office has completed its search for information. Other than minor or bespoke purchases, the Scotland Office does not normally undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice.

In April 2011, a contract was issued directly by the Scotland Office to the Royal Mail in relation to Scottish Parliament elections. At Scottish Parliament elections each candidate is entitled to send a free election mailing to each elector within the constituency in which they are standing, the cost of which is met from the Consolidated Fund. The Scotland Office is responsible for making the necessary payments and this contract between the Scotland Office and Royal Mail was put in place to ensure that Royal Mail check that the mailings paid for by us are election related and to agree cost and payment arrangements. The price paid by the Scotland Office depends upon the nature and extent of the services provided. The contract only relates to election mailings and continues in force until terminated, with 3 months notice, by either the Royal Mail or the Scotland Office.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The contact details are:

Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]