



Ministry
of Defence

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Defence Equipment & Support Secretariat

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Email: DESSEC-FOI@mod.uk
[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2014/06088
Date:
10 December 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2014, which asked for the following information:

I will attempt to simplify our request for information regarding these contracts by asking for the evaluation criteria and rationale in selecting the winning contractor for the following contracts.

The AWE Management award of the AWE

Serco's award of Campus Integrator for the Defence Academy

Serco's award of Project Inspire

In hopes of lessening the time burden for your research staff, please disregard our request for the initial RFP and bidding proposal documents.

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that we hold information in scope of your request. I have enclosed a number of documents, as detailed below:

- Evaluation criteria and rationale documents for contract **NUC41A/5001** – Management & Operation contract for AWE (Aldermaston)
- Evaluation matrix and evaluation report for contract **CBC(PI)038** – Campus Integrator for the Defence Academy.
- Tender evaluation model and Board paper with recommendation to select Serco for contract **DSTL/AGR/00115/01** – Project Inspire.

Some of the information you have requested falls entirely within scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 43(2) has been applied to some of the information in the evaluation rationale documents as disclosure could prejudice the commercial interests of the companies involved and of the MOD. The balance of public interest concluded that release of pricing details, and of evaluation comments attributable to unsuccessful bidders, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the companies by allowing competitors to draw assumptions about capabilities and to undercut prices in future similar competitions. Disclosure would also be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the MOD as release of the information could damage our relationship with the contractors. The test concluded that there is a strong public interest in protecting the commercial interests of the companies and the MOD and, therefore, pricing details and names of the unsuccessful bidders should be withheld. I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information as "would be likely to".

Section 40(2) has also 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. Names of individual commercial officers have been withheld.

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, 1st 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>.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.