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Ref. FOI2015/03962

19 May 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 21 April 2015 requesting the following information:

*I request the release of the minutes of the MOD's Accommodation Delivery Forum (ADF) (formerly the Housing Forum) and any related committee minutes or any other names this has been known by for the last 10 years.*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I confirm that all information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found attached within the 15 documents, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) and qualified exemptions section 35 (formulation of government policy), section 38 (Health & Safety) and section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Sections 35, 38 and 43 are qualified exemptions and 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 35 has been applied to some of the information because it contains details of ministerial communications in respect of the formulation of future policy, which is confidential. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details relating to Ministerial communications.

Section 38 has been applied to some of the information because it contains details of MOD Accommodation with specific addresses. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details which could endanger the health and safety of individuals.

Section 43 has been applied to some of the information because it contains details of pricing and budgetary information in relation to contracts held, which is commercially sensitive. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details on the pricing or budgetary structure of the contracts let as this would prejudice the commercial interests of the contractor(s) and also the commercial relationship it has and other organisations have with the MOD. For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the lower level of 'would be likely to' rather than 'would'.

Specifically this has meant:

- Financial information in Annex 4.1 and item 5.1 from minutes of 30 November 2010 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial).
- Financial information in Item 2.3 (serial 2) from minutes of 9 May 2011 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial); Item 2.3 (serial 12) and item 6 (bullet 9) has had building information redacted under section 38 (Health and Safety).
- Building information has been withheld from item 4 & 5 from minutes of 11 January 2012 under section 38 (Health and Safety).
- Annex 6.7 from minutes of 23 May 2012 has had financial information withheld under section 43 (Commercial).
- Financial information in item 3.3 (serial 3) and item 5 from minutes of 12 September 2012 have been withheld under section 43 (Commercial); building information from item 10 has been redacted under section 38 (Health and Safety).
- Financial information in Annexes from item 5 of minutes of 17 January 2013 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial).
- Financial information in item 4.13 from minutes of 9 May 2013 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial); building information from item 5 annexes has been withheld under section 38 (Health and Safety).
- Financial information in item 4 (including the Annex) from minutes of 17 September 2013 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial).
- Financial and contractual information in item 4.7 (including associated annex) and 4.9 from minutes of 30 January 2014 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial); reference to Ministerial communications has been withheld in item 4.7 under section 35 (formulation of government policy).
- Financial and contractual information in item 7 (annex) from minutes of 12 June 2014 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial).
- Financial information in item 3.3 and item 5.17 from minutes of 13 November 2014 has been withheld under section 43 (Commercial).

Information which has not been supplied as it is not held within MOD is Annex 5.11 from minutes of 17 September 2013; these can only be sourced directly through Modern Housing Solutions.

Other various redactions throughout the documents supplied have qualified under section 40 (Personal Data).

If you find that there is information missing or not supplied we would ask that you contact us on [DIOSec-Parli@mod.uk](mailto:DIOSec-Parli@mod.uk) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat

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