

Xxxxxxxxxxxx

Email: [xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx)

Our reference: FOICR 5652/07

26 July 2007

Dear Xxxxxxx,

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

I am very sorry for the unacceptable delay in replying to your request for information in relation to external consultants working on the ID Card programme/National Identity Scheme and the cost of the consultants.

Your request has been handled in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now pleased to be able to disclose the information you requested.

### **1. How many external consultants are currently working on the ID card programme / National Identity Scheme?**

As of the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, there were 82 external consultants and contracted staff working with IPS on projects which contribute to the development of second biometric passports (incorporating fingerprint biometrics), identity cards and associated developments. These figures include contracted staff temporarily filling full time positions and consultants providing specific support for project related work.

### **2. How many external consultants worked on the ID card programme / National Identity Scheme annually from 2004 to 2006?**

The number of external consultants working with either the Home Office Identity Cards Programme or, subsequently with the Identity & Passport Service (IPS), on projects to support the National Identity Scheme between 2004 and 2006 has varied depending on the work being carried out by the programme at that point in time.

For advice on how and where to obtain a passport, call the Passport Adviceline on 0870 521 0410 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

You can also email [hqenquiries@ips.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hqenquiries@ips.gsi.gov.uk) or visit [www.ips.gov.uk](http://www.ips.gov.uk)



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The numbers of external consultants employed at a particular point by the Home Office Identity Cards Programme has been previously disclosed in parliamentary questions and previous freedom of information requests. The following is a summary of those answers:

1<sup>st</sup> of December 2004: 41  
31<sup>st</sup> of January 2005: 45  
31<sup>st</sup> of May 2005: 62  
31<sup>st</sup> of March 2006: 98

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2006, the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the United Kingdom Passport Service merged to form the Identity & Passport Service. Contracts with external organisations are signed on the basis of providing services to projects or activities which can apply to both existing passport operational business as well as the future development of biometric passports, identity cards and future improvements.

As of the start of January 2007, there were 52 external consultants and contracted staff working with IPS on projects which contribute to the development of second biometric passports (incorporating fingerprint biometrics), identity cards and associated developments.

### **3. Which companies provided the consultants listed in 2?**

Between 2004 and 2006, at various periods, consultants from the following firms have conducted work or provided services related to the development of the National Identity Scheme for the Home Office Identity Cards Programme.

- Sirius Consortium (Fujitsu, Global Crossing, PWC)
- CESC
- Shreeveport Management Consultancy
- Axon Group plc
- ASE
- Cornwell Management Consultants
- SchlumbergerSema
- AtosOrigin
- Partnership UK
- Field Fisher Waterhouse
- Interleader Ltd,
- KPMG,
- Ernst & Young,
- SIGMA
- Abbey Consulting,
- Whitehead Mann
- Excel Recruitment

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create IPS on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

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As a result, much of the work conducted by IPS cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects.

Equally, contracts with external organisations are signed on the basis of providing services to projects or activities which can apply to both existing passport operational business as well as the future development of biometric passports, identity cards and future improvements. The following provides a list of external organisations from which IPS has obtained either consulting services and/or contracted staff in the financial year 2006/2007:

- PA Consulting Group
- Capita Resourcing
- Parity Resources
- Glotel Technology Working
- Adecco UK Ltd
- Allen Lane
- ASE Consulting Ltd
- Capita Interim Management
- CESG (Communications Electronics Security Group)
- Chamberlain Beaumont
- Computer People
- Crystal UK Ltd
- Elan Computing Ltd
- Electronic Computer Associates (novated from PA Consulting contract)
- Hays Accounting
- Hedra Ltd
- Hudson Global Resources Ltd
- Kelly Services
- KPMG
- Logica CMG
- Methods Consulting
- Montpelier Contracting & Consulting
- Northern Recruitment Group plc
- OGC Accounting Service
- Pendragon Information Systems
- Real-Time Consultants plc
- Ruillion Computer
- Sand Resources
- Search Total Recruitment Solutions
- Security Printing Systems Ltd
- Shreeveport Ltd
- Spring Technology
- TAC TPS Ltd
- The Nesco Group
- Veredus
- Alan Hughes
- Angela Mortimer plc
- Anite Public Sector
- Atos Origin IT Services Ltd
- Beamans Ltd

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- British Print Industries Federation
- Brook Street
- Buchanan & Darby Associates
- Business in the Community
- Callcredit plc
- CE Williams
- Central Office of Information
- Centre for Accessibility
- Diane Bailey Associates
- Donaldson's
- Drivers Jonas
- ER Consultants
- Equifax Ltd
- Excel Recruitment
- Home Office Cashiers
- Ian Farrand HR Management Consultants
- Ideas UK
- Identix Ltd
- Immediate Interns
- Insight Consulting
- Josephine Sammons Ltd
- Kingston Communications plc.
- Lambert Smith Hampton
- Manpower UK Ltd
- Michael Page UK Ltd
- Minority Matters Recruitment
- McCrindle Associates Ltd
- OCS
- Officeforce Ltd
- Parity Training Ltd
- Partnerships UK
- Plain English Campaign
- PicnicBox
- Procurement Services Ltd
- QDOS Computer Consultants
- QI Consulting
- Reed Accounting Personnel
- Resource Analysts Ltd
- RNA Ltd
- Robert Walters
- Security Services Group
- SGS UK Ltd
- Siemens Business Services
- Sigma
- St Johns Ambulance Services
- Step Ahead
- Streamline Financial Solutions
- Telelogic UK Ltd
- TK Cobley
- The Whelan Partnership

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- The Whitehall and Industry Group
- Turner & Townsend Project Management Ltd
- White Young
- Yale Data Management Consultant Ltd

**4. How much has been paid in total for external consultants on the ID card programme / National Identity Scheme since 2004?**

**5. How much was paid for external consultants on the ID card programme / National Identity Scheme annually from 2004 to 2006?**

Between the financial years 2003/2004 and 2005/2006, £31.6m was spent by the Home Office Identity Cards Programme on consulting and contracting services. The annual breakdown of such expenditure is:

03/04: £232,000

04/05: £9.2m

05/06: £22.2m

As above, since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the IPS on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by IPS cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects. The information is, therefore, not held in the format that you requested, as the cost of external consultants and the cost of contracted staff attributed to these projects cannot be disaggregated.

Whilst you have not requested this information I can tell you that the cost of external consultancy and contracted staff attributed to these projects for 2006/07 was £21.4m.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70% of the total cost of the Scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

**6. What is the average daily cost for a consultant working on the ID card programme / National Identity Scheme?**

The cost of external consultants and the cost of contracted staff attributed to projects related to the delivery of biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements is not held in the format that you have requested.

As different consultants and contracted staff with different rates may be working on projects related to the development of second biometric passports (incorporating fingerprint biometrics), identity cards and associated developments, it is not possible to provide a generic average daily cost for consultants and contracted staff.

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However, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, the average daily rate paid for external consultants or contracted staff working for the Programme on that day was £601.20 (excl. VAT).

Again apologies for the delay in dealing with your request but it has enabled me to provide with up to date information. As I am sure you will know, you are entitled to an independent review of our decision. If so, you should write to:

Information Policy Team  
Information and Records Management Service  
Home Office  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Seacole Building  
2, Marsham Street,  
London, SW1P 4DF.

Email: [info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

It would help if you quoted reference: 5652/07

The internal review will be conducted by Home Office staff that have had no involvement in decisions about the information we are providing or the way we have handled your request. If, following the internal review, you remain dissatisfied then you may refer your complaint to:

The Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Home Office on behalf of the Identity and Passport Service.

You have spoken to Xxxxxx Xxxxxx in Home Office Press Office about your request and I am therefore copying this letter to him for information.

Yours sincerely

**Xxxxxxxxx Xxxxxxx**  
**Head of Information Policy**

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