



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Commercial Procurement Group**  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
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London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

21 January 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0961-15**

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

*I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

*I would like a list of all contracts between the FCO and Adam Smith International (ASI) agreed since 2004. I would expect this list to include:*

- 1. The date of the contract*
- 2. A title or description of the contract*
- 3. Any contract or project ID numbers*
- 4. The value of the contract*
- 5. The country or countries in which the work was to be undertaken*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please find attached in Annex A the information the FCO can release to you. Some of the information has been withheld using Section 24 (1) National Security and Sections 38 (1) (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested material, we are concerned that releasing details of some of the contracts would undermine effective operation of these projects and consequently adversely impact on the

UK's security. We have concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

In addition releasing the information could endanger the safety of individuals and has therefore been withheld under Sections 38(1) (a) and (b). In applying the public interest test we again took into consideration the factors in favour of disclosure; in this case that releasing such information would demonstrate openness and public accountability. However, against this is the need for the FCO to ensure the health and safety of our employees and visitors. If this information were released, it could potentially expose third party providers under contract to the risk of potential attack. We therefore consider that the reasons for withholding this information outweigh those for releasing.

The contracts with Adam Smith International are all vital projects to help bring stability and resolve conflict which is essential to the security and prosperity for the UK. The contracts were awarded either through open competition on the Government's Contracts Finder website or via existing agreements with suppliers.

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Yours sincerely,

Commercial Procurement Group



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