



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
DE&S Policy Secretariat Air

Defence Equipment and Support
Maple 0a #2043
MOD Abbey Wood South
Bristol BS34 8JH



Tel: [REDACTED]

Your Reference:

Our Reference:
2014/01520
Date:
8 July 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 May 2014, requesting the following information:

A copy of all contracts concluded between the Ministry of Defence (Secretary of State for Defence or any related Ministry, department, body or agency) ("MoD") and the Ascent Group of Companies (or the constituent parties to the Ascent Group joint venture, namely Lockheed Martin and Babcock International and/or the VT Group) in relation to the UK Military Flight Training System ("UKMFTS").

Please provide a copy of all terms and conditions, specifications or statements of works, statements of requirements and all schedules, appendices, annexes, attachments and referenced documentation forming part of or relating to the Contracts or UKMFTS together with all amendments and supplements ("Related Documentation").

I believe the first Contract was signed in June 2008 and is referred to on the Ascent Group website at:

<http://www.lockheedmartin.co.uk/uk/news/press-releases/2008-press-releases/ukmfts.html>

The Ascent Group of Companies includes:

*Ascent flight Training (Holding) Limited, company number 06522853
Ascent Flight Training (Management) Limited, company number 06522636
Ascent Flight Training (Services) Limited, company number 06522487
Advanced Jet Training (Holdings) Limited, company number 06522819
Advanced Jet Training Limited, Company number 06522504*

Following our exchange of correspondence on 21 May, 4 June and subsequently, 25 June 2014, you have refined your request to:

. . . disclosure of the statement of requirements or works as this my main area of interest. If it not possible to prioritise disclosure of this information can you please confine my request for information to any statement or list of goods, works or services which may be procured under the Contracts and/or are required to be provided under the Contracts and any related statement of requirements by the procuring authority. I would like pdf copies of the relevant schedules, annexes, attachments and appendices of the Contracts (including amendments and supplements to and orders submitted under the Contracts) which contain that information. If the information is not sufficient for my purposes I will submit a further request for the remainder of the information at a later date. I am happy for you to redact any pricing information.

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

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found enclosed.

In my letter of 25 July, I advised that we were considering whether the qualified exemptions under sections 26 (defence) and 43(2) (commercial interests) of the FOI Act applied to any of the requested information. I am pleased to be able to inform you that we do not believe any of the provided information falls within the scope of these, or any other, exemptions provided by the FOI Act.

Under section 16(1) (duty to provide advice and assistance) of the FOI Act, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the references within the statement of requirements to a number of schedules. The schedules are rather miscellaneous, both in size and as to whether the information they contain would require redaction. In order to minimise the delay in responding to your request I have not provided any of the schedules to the statement at this stage. However, you are, of course, free to make a further FOI request, or requests, for any schedule you might require.

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,

