



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Commercial Procurement Group
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0674-14

Thank you for your email of 9th July asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

- 1. How much money has been paid to private security firms working in Afghanistan since October 2001?*
- 2. Could the amounts paid to the top four companies please be broken down on a year by year basis?*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested and can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request. We wrote to you on 6 August to say that we were considering withholding some of the information under section 24 (National Security) of the FOIA. I can now confirm that we have decided not to cite section 24 for the information you requested, some of which we have already published.

Some of the information you have asked for has already been provided in response to a previous FOI on Private Security Companies (PSCs). Under Section 21 of the FOI Act we are not obliged to provide information that is already reasonably accessible to the public. However for your convenience we include the following link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/35502/0669-12.pdf

Due to the manner in which the FCO is invoiced by the PSCs we are unable to provide a year on year breakdown as you have requested. Matching individual invoices to given contracts for the historic data could only be done at disproportionate cost.

This is in full compliance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. I estimate that it will take more than 3 ½ working days to locate, retrieve and extract this information and in these circumstances we are not obliged under the Act to comply with your request.

However I can provide a breakdown of spend for the PSCs in Afghanistan for FY2013/2014.

Supplier	Spend
G4S Risk Management Limited	£25 million
Minimal Risk Consultancy Limited	£700,000



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