



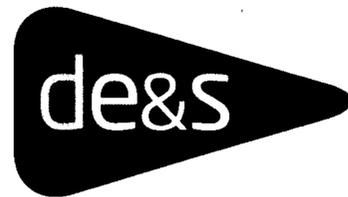
Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]

Policy Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
Ministry of Defence
#2043 Maple 0a
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH

Email: DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-
WPNS@mod.uk



[REDACTED]

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

Date:
20 June 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

In your email dated 1 May 2014. You revised an earlier request (FOI2014/00190) and asked:

Please could you provide a copy of all emails between the Ministry of Defence Disposal Service Authority personnel and Field Textiles between 2010 and today 02/04/2014. I would like to modify my request to simply ask for copies of all emails between the MOD DSA and Field Textiles for the last 6 months.

What oversight arrangements exist within the Ministry of Defence Disposal Services Authority in relation to Field Textiles.

Has the Ministry of Defence Disposal Services Authority between January 2008 and today 02/04/2014 commissioned any kind of audit in relation to Field Textiles and if so please provide details of when and a copy of any audit documents or reports and a summary of the audit and its findings ?

In relation to contractors used by the MOD to dispose of MOD / DSA assets or those of DSA customers how are audits conducted to prevent loss to the public purse by contractors or inside dealing ?

On 23 May 2014 I wrote to you to acknowledge your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act; to inform you that the MOD held information relating to your request and to explain that we believed the information fell within the scope of qualified exemption: Section 43 (*Commercial Interests*). As such it was necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

We have now completed this work and I can tell you that we have decided that for the qualified exemption Section 43 (*Commercial Interests*) the balance of public interest found against it being engaged and that there is no reason to withhold information under this exemption.

Taking each of your questions in turn:

Please could you provide a copy of all emails between the Ministry of Defence Disposal Service Authority personnel and Field Textiles for the last six months.

Between 1 December 2013 and 31 May 2014 there were no email exchanges between the Disposal Services Authority (DSA) and Field Textiles.

What oversight arrangements exist within the Ministry of Defence Disposal Services Authority in relation to Field Textiles.

The DSA does not currently have a contract with Field Textiles. The DSA does have a contract with Disposal Services Ltd which is a consortium consisting of two shareholding partners – Field Textiles and Ramco.

Has the Ministry of Defence Disposal Services Authority between January 2008 and today 02/04/2014 commissioned any kind of audit in relation to Field Textiles and if so please provide details of when and a copy of any audit documents or reports and a summary of the audit and its findings ?

Field Textiles had a contract with the DSA until 31 January 2012 and, in accordance with the terms and conditions of their contract, they were subjected to an audit in November 2011. The audit was conducted by the Asset Accounting Centre (part of the Defence Internal Audit team); the result of the audit was 'Full Assurance'. A copy of this report is attached. Section 40(2) (*Personal Information*) has been applied to some of the information in the report to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

In relation to contractors used by the MOD to dispose of MOD / DSA assets or those of DSA customers how are audits conducted to prevent loss to the public purse by contractors or inside dealing ?

Audits are carried out by the Asset Accounting Centre (AAC), part of the Defence Internal Audit department; they will audit against the contracted Terms & Conditions and any other issues at the direction of the Commodity Managers. The programme of audits is controlled by the commercial team and will generally be an annual event. The AAC currently allow DSA five slots per year for contractor audits; the commercial and commodity teams liaise to determine which contracts should be audited; the decision is based on a number of factors including level of assurance at previous audit (if a previous audit proved poor they will automatically be audited again in the next round). Other factors include matters such as volume of business.

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 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.

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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 the case until the 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


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