



Ministry
of Defence



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



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
FOI2015/03080
Date:
16 April 2015

Dear 

Your email dated 18th March 2015 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

Please find below a set of questions sent to you for response under the FOI Act:

1. *Please state the total number of staff within your procurement team.*
2. *Of the number provided in response to question 1, please state the number of staff within your procurement team that have:*
 - ◆ *A CIPS or other professional procurement qualification*
 - ◆ *No professional procurement qualification but are currently undergoing training*
3. *What is the total third party (non-pay) spend across the whole of your organisation in the financial years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15? Total spend is to include payments below £500.*
4. *What training is available to procurement staff? i.e. In-house training, E-learning, External training provider, Formal body (CIPS) and Consultant?*
5. *For your procurement staff, do you have a documented program of training and/or development?*
6. *How many of your procurement staff have undertaken commercial training within the last 12 months and 24 months?*
7. *How many people, not within the procurement function, have undertaken commercial training within the last 12 months and 24 months?*
8. *If you have answered question 7 with a positive number, how was this training provided? i.e. In-house training, E-learning, External training provider, Formal body (CIPS) and Consultant?*

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some information relevant to your request. MOD procurement activity ranges from the purchase of low value consumable items through to complex equipment acquisition and support. The MOD currently has around 1,400 staff in the commercial function, of which approximately 1,200 are in active commercial roles and

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are authorised to sign contracts with suppliers. Others are responsible for commercial policy, development and administration.

Commercial staff must demonstrate the necessary levels of functional competence and experience to be licensed and receive a formal commercial delegation. Currently, 516 staff have attained qualifications in the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), and a further 287 are undergoing training to achieve CIPS qualification. However, the MOD utilises all forms of training, including In-House training, E-learning and the use of external training providers, formal bodies such as CIPS and consultants. We have also developed an advanced Commercial Professionalism Programme, with training relevant to the MOD complex acquisition process, which goes beyond standard CIPS training.

During the past 12 months, nearly 900 procurement staff and in excess of 3,600 non-procurement staff have undertaken commercial training. I regret that the figures for the 24 month period are not available.

With regard to third party expenditure, the MOD has published two Annual Statistical Bulletins which cover expenditure for financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14. The expenditure for financial year 2014/15 is not yet available.

Annual Statistical Bulletin 1.01: Trade, Industry and Contracts 2014 presents information on MOD spending with industry and commerce, setting out the numbers, types and values of contracts placed by MOD, major equipment projects and payments made by the MOD to its suppliers. Also included are detail of the top ten companies by payments, as well as contracts placed and expenditure with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. Industry tables provide details of existing PFI contracts and analysis of the impact of MOD spending on equipment and services in the UK. Trade data presents information on defence export orders and payments made for services consumed by MOD establishments overseas. The publication can be found at the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-industry-trade-and-contracts-2014>

Annual Statistical Bulletin 1.02: International Defence 2014 presents comparison information on UK defence spending with other countries. This includes details on defence expenditure by each of the NATO member states in Constant 2013 Prices and Exchange Rates (US\$) as well as each members defence expenditure as a percentage of their GDP. It also details the top 15 military spenders worldwide, ranked using Market Exchange Rates and Purchasing Power Parity rates. The bulletin finishes by providing a focus on trend analysis and aggregate defence comparators for the UK, Germany, France and the USA. The publication can be found at the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/international-defence-expenditure-2014--2>

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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

