



Ministry  
of Defence



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



25-Jul-16 Our Reference: FOI2016/06286

Dear 

Your email dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016, which was considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, sought the following information:

1. Total DE&S spend on civilian staff for each financial year 2009/10 to 2015/16
2. Total DE&S spend on military staff for each financial year 2009/10 to 2015/16
3. Total DE&S spend on private staff for each financial year 2009/10 to 2015/16
4. Number of FTE employed by Managed Service Providers on MSP contracts with DE&S for each financial year 2009/10 to 2015/16
5. Number of FTE privately employed staff members working at DE&S on secondment at the end of each financial year 2009/10 to 2015/16

You subsequently clarified questions 3 and 5 as follows:

*By private staff, I mean staff who are the employees at a private firm but who are contracted to work for DE&S (contracted staff).*

*By privately employed staff, I mean staff who are employees of a private firm who are seconded to DE&S on a longer term basis. For the purposes of this request, to be specific I will define this as those who will be working on a secondment for a period of 1 year or more.*

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request. Information for each question is provided in tabular form together with explanation as required.

I am withholding private staff expenditure for financial year 2015/16 under qualified exemption Section 22(1)(a) of the FOIA. Private sector support expenditure, is published in the DE&S Annual Report & Accounts (ARAC). The DE&S ARAC for financial year 2015/16 is due for publication by the end of the year.

Section 22(1)(a) of the FOIA exempts information if the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not). As a qualified exemption, it was necessary to undertake a public interest test (PIT) to determine whether, in all circumstances of the case, information should be released or withheld in part or in its entirety. The PIT weighed the presumption of disclosure and the enhancement of government accountability; against the fact that data currently held had not yet been verified and audited, thereby presenting the risk of inaccurate data being published. Publication of the ARAC is anticipated by the end of the year. The PIT concluded that the Section 22(1)(a) should be applied and the information withheld.

**Q1 & 2:** Civilian and military staff spend for each financial year 2009/10 to 2015/16 is given in the table below. I have included 2015-16 costs as a breakdown between civilian and military staff expenditure is not planned for publication in the DE&S ARAC.

	£ million						
	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15	FY15-16
<b>Civilian staff spend</b>	706.8	705.1	679.9	592.7	609.3	511.5	486.9
<b>Military staff spend</b>	350.7	340.1	315.1	280.7	238.7	133.6	131.1

**Q3:** Private staff expenditure for financial years 2009/10 to 2014/15 is given in the table below. The 2014-15 figure was published in the DE&S ARAC and you will note that this is higher than in previous years. This is because the published private sector support information now represents a fuller picture. Prior to DE&S becoming a bespoke trading entity on 1st April 2014, recorded private staff expenditure was limited to expenditure on contingent labour, consultancy and the Framework Agreement for Technical Support (FATS). When DE&S became a bespoke trading entity on 1st April 2014, we began including technical support costs previously subsumed within the equipment programme budget. Without the additional costs the figure would be circa £225 million, similar to previous years.

	£ million					
	FY09-10	FY10-11	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15
<b>Private staff spend</b>	58.5*	246.8	236.3	196.1	208.5	439.6

\*Excludes FATS. Figures are not held for financial year 2009/10.

Further details in support of the expenditure shown in the table can be found in DE&S Annual Report & Accounts 2014/15 Section 5: Notes to the Accounts (Note 3):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-equipment-support-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>.

**Q4:** The contracts for our Managed Service Providers (MSPs), CH2M, Bechtel and PwC, were signed on 17 November 2014 (FY 14/15). Numbers of FTE staff employed prior to financial year 2014/15 are, therefore, not held.

The resource profiles in the contracts vary month by month to reflect the requirements of the transformation programme. As such, the table below provides the average number of MSP FTE staff engaged in support of transformation across each of the years requested:

	<b>14/15</b> (average numbers Nov 14 – Mar 15)	<b>15/16</b> (average numbers Apr 15 – Mar 16)
<b>Bechtel</b>	49	72
<b>CH2M</b>	34	72
<b>PwC</b>	46	58

To clarify, consultancy is the provision of objective advice on strategy, structure, management or operations, in pursuit of MOD purposes and objectives. There is especially rigorous scrutiny and oversight of this, both by the Cabinet Office and internally by Ministers. Consultancy can be used only when other options for getting the task completed internally have been considered and rejected, either because the skills and/or resources are unavailable or because there are identifiable value-for-money benefits to the MOD in taking this approach.

**Q5:** The number of privately employed staff working on secondment in DE&S at the end of each financial year is given in the table below:

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
<b>Privately employed staff</b>	5	10	11	12	17	19	9

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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,

