



Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2016/00339

[Redacted]

Service Prosecuting Authority
RAF Northolt
West End Road
Ruislip HA4 6NG
United Kingdom

Telephone [MOD]: [Redacted]

Facsimile [MOD]: [Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Website [Redacted]

8th February 2016

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 9th January 2016 requesting the following information:

1. *When was Outside Organisation commissioned by the SPA to act as media advisors?*
2. *What is the exact nature of the work conducted by Outside Organisation?*
3. *What are the terms of the contract between the SPA and Outside Organisation?*
4. *How long is the contract to run for?*
5. *How much has the SPA paid Outside Organisation from when they were commissioned by the SPA to the date of this request for information?*

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

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

The information you have requested can be found enclosed below but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 21 (Information Reasonably Accessible to the Applicant).

	Question	Answer
1	When was Outside Organisation commissioned by the SPA to act as media advisors?	24 Oct 2014
4	How long is the contract to run for?	Initially 9 Months; extended to 12 Months.

5	How much has the SPA paid Outside Organisation from when they were commissioned by the SPA to the date of this request for information?	£84K (ex VAT) following contract extension.
---	---	---

Section 21 has been applied to some of the information as it is reasonably accessible via other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. The Ministry of Defence provides details of all government contracts on the gov.uk Contracts Finder Archive website. The enclosed link provides full details of the Service Prosecuting Authority contract with the Outside Organisation together with a copy of the Contract documents (<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/1657689>).

	Question	Answer
2	What is the exact nature of the work conducted by Outside Organisation?	Exempted under Section 21
3	What are the terms of the contract between the SPA and Outside Organisation?	Exempted under Section 21

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that The Outside Organisation continue to provide bespoke media assistance on our most high profile of prosecution cases. This is in accordance with a standardised set of hourly rates. However, at time of your request, no further monies had been paid to The Outside Organisation; over and above the original contract costs.

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,

[Redacted signature]