



Ministry  
of Defence



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



Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
FOI2015/01687  
Date:  
7 April 2015

Dear 

Your email dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

*Could you please tell me how many contacts have been taken out with Google or its subsidiaries between 2010 and 2015, the purpose of each contract and the value of each contract?*

My letter of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 informed you that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request, but that a Public Interest Test (PIT) needed to be undertaken to consider whether any of the information should be withheld under qualified exemptions Section 24 (National Security) or Section 26 (Defence) of the FOIA.

I can advise you that during the period covered by your request, the MOD held two contracts with Motorola Solutions UK Ltd, a then subsidiary of Google. However, further details of the contracts are being withheld under Section 26(1) (b) of the FOIA. Section 26(1) (b) has been applied as the information contains sensitive details whose release could allow conclusions to be drawn about the capability of the Armed Forces. The balance of the public interest concluded that while release of the information would enhance the accountability of the MOD through information about its contractual processes, there is a strong public interest in favour of not releasing details that would prejudice the capability of our Armed Forces or giving a tactical advantage to our enemies. The level of prejudice against the release of the exempted information has been set at the higher level of 'would'.

Section 24(1) of the FOIA has not been applied to the information as it is considered that the arguments in favour of withholding the contract details are more relevant to Section 26(1) (b).

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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.