



Ministry
of Defence



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



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
FOI2015/02870
Date:
30 March 2015

Dear 

Your email dated 11th March 2015 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

I am trying to gain an understanding of how your department monitors/audits the PFI projects that come under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence. I know that the Treasury collects data on each PFI via each government department and publishes these annually along with a presentation tracking the different stages of each project but I am interested in understanding what information your department collects and how it does so.

In a response to a request via www.whatdotheyknow.com 30th November 2011, a freedom of information officer with HM Treasury said:

"...Treasury involvement in PFI projects tends to be at a programme level to assure overall deliverability and value for money, and that detailed oversight is undertaken by the central department who have responsibility for a particular area."

I do not wish to see the actual information that is gathered on each scheme but would like to be sent evidence of that "detailed oversight": for example what information does the Ministry of Defence ask for from each PFI scheme and/ what types of information do individual PFI projects provide the department with and how is this information gathered? This may include but should not be restricted to emailed questions, surveys, reporting templates. I would also like to be sent templates demonstrating how this information is stored. Again I would like to be clear that I am not asking to see any of the actual data collected, I would simply like to see any databases/column headings which are populated with PFI data.

Please can you confirm how frequently this data collection takes place?

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request. The MOD is structured such that detailed oversight and day to day management of each of its 41 live PFI projects is provided by a project team involving project management, commercial and finance resource; the same approach as for most MOD projects. The project team has responsibility for the management of the service provider (the contractor) and the contract including managing the service performance and the associated payment.

Defence Equipment & Support

To provide MOD with a central oversight of all MOD PFI projects the MOD Private Finance Unit (PFU) coordinates requests for information required by MOD internal departments, HM Treasury (HMT) and the National Audit Office. MOD PFU also provides a central point of contact for project teams who manage a PFI contract and provides advice and assistance to these project teams.

The primary request for such information is received annually from HMT. The data request to address this is sent by MOD PFU through internal MOD email to the relevant project team managing the particular PFI contract in the form of a template for their completion; that for 2014 is enclosed with this letter. MOD PFU provides quality control on the data received before coordinating this response for HMT who then publish the data with that from Other Government Departments. Additional requests for data are also required from time to time from a range of internal and external stakeholders but these are ad hoc and vary in scope.

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,

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