



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Commercial Procurement Group
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

26 April 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0272-16

Thank you for your email of 5 March 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the basic details of all security contracts the British Government has awarded to private firms since 2012 and the value of those contracts.

Which you refined on 7 & 8 March 2016 to:

I would like to revise my request as per your instructions so that 'security contracts' refers specifically to contracts given to Private Security Companies.

The information you have mentioned "Supplier, Location of Contract, Location of Contract, Start Date, End Date" is acceptable and would be very helpful.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds some information relevant to your request. Please find at Annex A below the information that the FCO can release to you. Some of the information has been withheld using Section 24 (1) National Security.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested material, we are concerned that its release would undermine effective operation of the relevant contracts and consequently adversely impact on the UK's security. We have concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

We have provided details of the contracts with Private Security Companies (PSCs) which we hold centrally. We are unable to provide details of locally awarded contracts. Expenditure is devolved to various directorates and departments within the FCO in London as well as the global network of overseas missions in over 170 countries. To provide details of all contracts signed with PSCs overseas can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is in full compliance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours sincerely,

Commercial Procurement Group



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.

Annex A:

The total value of contracts awarded to Private Security Companies since 2012.

Supplier	Value
Aegis Defence Services	£8.7m
Argus	£0.2m
Control Risks	£5.4m
Essoka	£0.2m
Fiducial private security	£0.3m
GardaWorld	£49.6m
G4S	£89.9m
KK Security	£0.6m
Pilgrims Group	£3.0m
Safeguard Security	£1.2m
Securitas	£0.8m
Tempest Security	£0.4m