



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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

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

12 January 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 1060-16

Thank you for your email of 11th November 2016 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I write to you in relation to a contract you awarded.

Contract title: Provision of Security Guarding Services for British Embassy Kuwait

Award notice: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/010ce995-9f03-4ebb-9800-23b3b335172c>

Publication date of the award: 42578

Information Requested

In accordance with s.1 of the Act, which provides a general right of access to information held by public authorities, I wish to receive the following information:

- ***A copy of the list of all bidders at PQQ stage (company names) and from those, the bidders who were successful***

I request that any personal data relating to individuals is removed before this information is sent. Should the scorecards be unavailable I would request that the list of PQQ applicants only be submitted.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested and can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

For this tender there was no separate PQQ stage though qualification criteria were assessed as part of the process. The following companies submitted bids that were assessed as compliant against the qualification criteria: Al Mulla Security Services Co. W.L.L and Marafie Kuwaitia Gen. Trad & Cont. Co. W.L.L.

The scorecards are exempt under Section 43(2) of the Act, which relates to commercial interests. The use of this exemption was carefully considered. The factors in favour of disclosure of this information, including the general public interest and greater transparency

and accountability, were carefully weighed against the need to allow business-people and commercial organisations the space to conduct their lawful business competitively and without fear of disclosure of sensitive commercial information. We regularly use commercial contractors, and we must maintain their confidence and refrain from releasing information that would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests. In this case we believe that the balance of public interest lies in not releasing the information.

We had considered whether the exemption under s24 was appropriate to the information held in relation to this request but have decided that s43(2) is more appropriate.

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

