



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
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Ref. FOI 2016/08837

12 October 2016

Dear

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2016 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request information under the freedom of information act. for an article.

- 1). When was the pay as you dine system was introduced in the Army.*
- 2). How many companies currently have the catering contracts with the Ministry of Defence or with the Army for this year or previous year?*
- 3). What are the names of these companies who currently have the catering contracts with the Army?*
- 4). What is the current contract value with each company?*
- 5). When was these contracts were signed and for how long the contract was signed for with each company?*

Catering services referred in above queries can be those service who are involved in providing food to the Army soldiers as a part of pay as you dine system."

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held and can be found below.

1. When was the pay as you dine system introduced in the Army?

- The UK Armed Forces adopted Pay As You Dine in 2005. Instead of the deduction of food costs taken directly from a soldiers pay at source (whether the meals were taken or not), it was decided to give Service personnel the choice about how and where they spend their money with regards to food.

2. How many companies currently have the catering contracts with the Ministry of Defence or with the Army for this year or previous year?

- Army – 5 contractors.
- Ministry of Defence (Army, Navy, RAF) – 6 contractors.

3. What are the names of these companies who currently have the catering contracts with the Army?

- Aramark Ltd.
- Elior UK Plc.
- Sodexo Ltd.
- ISS Mediclean Ltd.
- Compass Group.

4. What is the current contract value with each company?

- Aramark Ltd - £319.3m.
- Elior UK Plc - £231.94m.
- Sodexo Ltd - £634.43m (Please note: Two of these contracts expired on 15 September 2016 but their value is still included).
- ISS Mediclean Ltd - £290.06m.
- Compass Group - £233.79m.
- Babcock Support Services - £63.41m.

5. When was these contracts were signed and for how long the contract was signed for with each company?

- A list can be found at Annex A.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your Freedom of Information request, then you should contact DIO Secretariat 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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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,

DIO Secretariat

Annex:

A. List of PAYD contractors including value, commencement and expiry date.