



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2015/04500

E-mail: [DGFinance-SecParliamentaryFOI@mod.uk](mailto:DGFinance-SecParliamentaryFOI@mod.uk)



E-mail address:




20<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 20 May 2015 requesting the following information:

*I am writing with a request to supply information under Freedom of Information and or Environmental Impact Assessment legislation in respect of work undertaken by Ernst & Young in partnership with Mott MacDonald at RAF Northolt.*

*The reference to this appears in an email dated 29 November 2011 from DFM-BSG-AssetMgt2-Adv3 to *

*Please could you provide me with the following information in relation to this work:*

- 1. Was the work tendered and if so please provide a copy of the tender package?*
- 2. What were the terms of reference for the contract (i.e. what work was being undertaken by Ernst & Young in partnership with Mott MacDonald)?*
- 3. What was the duration of the contract and has it been completed?*
- 4. What was the outcome of the work carried out by Ernst & Young and Mott MacDonald and where is the final report available for viewing?*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found at Annex A to D. Some of the information contained within these documents has been redacted as they fall within scope of exemptions within the Act. I have provided a summary below of the reasons for redacting this information.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is

therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 26 and 43 are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details of military aviation activity which is operationally sensitive and would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing these details regarding specific RAF Northolt operations.

Section 43(2) has been applied because some of the information is commercially sensitive and release would damage the commercial interests of the MOD should it decide to re-assess or further develop RAF Northolt. The public interest test concluded that the damage to the commercial interests of interested parties outweighed the need to provide further transparency to meet your request.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note;

1. The work package was tendered but a copy of the tender package is not held and therefore has not been included in this response.
2. Information is held regarding the contract duration and its status. In order to be practical and cost effective it has been decided, that rather than provide further documentation it would be more appropriate to answer your question "What was the duration of the contract and has it been completed?" directly. The contract ran from 29 Nov 2011 to 7 March 2012 and the work has been completed.

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,

HOCF-BSG