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of Defence

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Our Reference:  
FOI2019/01816  
Date:  
8 March 2019

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 8 February 2019 requesting the following information:

*"I would like to narrow my request to just one item in the hope it will meet the requirements.*

*1. I would like to know which company was awarded the MOD contract to supply military pace sticks from 2007-2014, and who held the same contract from 2015-2018.*

*• I would like this information to be given year by year (but I am pretty sure from 2007-2016 it was held by the same company so should not be too hard to find).*

*2. If possible, I would like to know who held the contract but more specifically, who actually manufactured the product.*

*• For example, company A may have held the tender with the MOD, but did they actually manufacture the pace sticks or get company B to manufacture it on their behalf.*

*3. I would like to know how much the contract cost per year 2007 to 2014 and how much did it cost from 2015 and onwards?*

*• When I refer to "cost per contract" I mean how much was the supplier paid by the MOD to run the contract for the duration they were granted it.*

*• What I would like to know is whether there was a difference between the price of an item when it was supplied by one manufacturer in one year, compared to another manufacturer providing the same item in another year.*

*In terms of the details of the company/manufactures: I would please like the full name and registered address of the company."*

Defence Equipment & Support

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 below:

**1. I would like to know which company was awarded the MOD contract to supply military pace sticks from 2007-2014, and who held the same contract from 2015-2018.**

**I would like this information to be given year by year (but I am pretty sure from 2007-2016 it was held by the same company so should not be too hard to find).**

The current contract is with Hobsons and Sons (London) Ltd and was awarded in November 2017 and expires November 2019 (includes a 12-month option year). This contract also includes a large amount of other items (not just Pace Sticks). The previous contract which included Pace Sticks (but was mainly for the supply of Swords) was with Pooley Swords Ltd and ran from December 2013 – December 2017. Our commodities contractor does not hold information before that, however, other records held from a company called Dancraft record that they manufactured and supplied Pace Sticks to the MOD as a sub-contractor to T W Engineering from 1999 – 2013 and then Pooley Swords Ltd from 2013 - 2017.

**2. If possible, I would like to know who held the contract but more specifically, who actually manufactured the product.**

**For example, company A may have held the tender with the MOD, but did they actually manufacture the pace sticks or get company B to manufacture it on their behalf.**

Dancraft manufactured the Pace Sticks prior to the current contract, however, the sub-contractor for Hobsons and Sons (London) Ltd for Pace Sticks is a company called A.N. Riaz Brothers based in Pakistan.

**3. I would like to know how much the contract cost per year 2007 to 2014 and how much did it cost from 2015 and onwards?**

**When I refer to "cost per contract" I mean how much was the supplier paid by the MOD to run the contract for the duration they were granted it.**

We do not hold the spend on Pace Sticks, however, we do hold the spend, for instance, against the Pooley Swords Ltd contract which was £613,112.72, but this will not isolate the Pace Stick spend, which would be a fraction of this. Information prior to 2013 is not centrally held and was not in files we retrieved from our Archives, with older files likely to have been destroyed after around six years.

**What I would like to know is whether there was a difference between the price of an item when it was supplied by one manufacturer in one year, compared to another manufacturer providing the same item in another year.**

Prices for individual contracts will vary dependent on things like the actual number to be supplied and the timeframe and therefore it is difficult to compare prices between different contracts, although within a tender exercise different prices would be offered by companies wishing to supply the particular item(s). This price information would be commercially sensitive and we would not usually release, for instance, the current prices of Pace Sticks from Hobson and Sons (London) Ltd. It might be necessary for us to seek to use a Section 43 (Commercial Interests) Exemption as individual price information is likely to be commercially sensitive and subject to a Public Interest Test, if you request additional information on this.

**In terms of the details of the company/manufactures: I would please like the full name and registered address of the company.**

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The company details are, as follows:

Pooley Swords Limited  
1a Highdown House, Shoreham Airport, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5PB, UK.

A.N. Riaz Brothers (REGD)  
42, Commissioner Road, Sialkot, Pakistan.

Hobson and Sons (London) Ltd  
Kenneth Road, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 3AF, United Kingdom.

Dancraft  
Unit 1, Mill Cottage, Linton Woods Lane, Linton on Ouse, York, YO30 2BA.

T W Engineering Co Ltd  
Angular House, Eagle Road, Quarry Hill Industrial Park, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 4RB.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

  
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