



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Services
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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

17 April 2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: FOI 0275-19

Thank you for your email of 20th March 2019 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Thank you. In a seperate request, I would like to request all information relating to the procurement of these security services. I would like the correspondence between FCO Services and Shetland Security Services. I would also like to know how this procurement process worked - was it competitive? How many bids were there? What was the brief given to Shetland Security Services? How was the pricing worked out?

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. I can confirm that FCO Services does hold information relevant to your request.

The information held by FCO Services is exempt under Section 43 (2) of the Act. Under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests), information is exempt from disclosure if it has the potential to undermine or prejudice existing or future commercial proceedings of any person (including the public authority holding it).

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 consider that this transparency also poses risks to the protection of commercially confidential information. Failure to protect such commercially sensitive information would limit the sources of information and interlocutors available to FCO Services.

In this case after such consideration we believe that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in its release.

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](https://www.gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

If you would like a review of our decision, or if you wish to make a complaint, please write to the Central FOI Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room WH2.177, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Officer

FCO Services



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.