

# **SSRO**

Single Source  
Regulations Office

## **Data strategy for information provided in statutory reports under the Defence Reform Act 2014**

### **Consultation response**

# Summary of consultation responses

- 1.1 The SSRO consulted on its proposed data strategy between 1 February and 28 March 2019. We received consultation responses from six organisations representing the views of major contractors and a trade organisation. We held a workshop to discuss our proposals on 13 March.
- 1.2 We would like to thank respondents for sharing their views with us. We have considered all submissions in finalising our strategy and have published the non-confidential submissions in full on our website. Below we provide a summary of the main points raised.
- 1.3 Most of the feedback received focused on the implementation of our planned review of reporting requirements. It encouraged establishing the purpose and use of the various reports, which is reflected in the SSRO's plan of work.
- 1.4 An overarching theme emerging from industry responses was the cost of collecting data and a view that the strategy should set out an ambition to collect the minimum amount of data to serve the SSRO's aim in carrying out its functions to ensure:
  - that good value for money is obtained in government expenditure on qualifying defence contracts; and
  - that persons who are parties to qualifying defence contracts are paid a fair and reasonable price under those contracts.
- 1.5 Respondents generally supported the SSRO's plan to review the reporting requirements and stressed the importance of establishing the extent to which the data gathered improves the management of QDCs and QSCs. Some expressed the view that the reports are under-utilised. Industry stakeholders were keen to identify opportunities for streamlining and rationalising the reporting, and investigating the merits of contractors submitting information to both the MOD and DefCARS.
- 1.6 Stakeholders considered it important to remove duplication and explore ways in which information could have dual uses. A number of respondents provided specific examples of reports or data where the rationale for collection is not clear.
- 1.7 Overall, the feedback provided by stakeholders indicates that there may be potential to streamline the collection of data, while still ensuring that the data can be utilised for its intended purpose. While there is inevitably a cost associated with the process of collecting data, we recognise that it needs to be proportionate. The examples provided by stakeholders are helpful in illustrating the challenges facing contractors and stress the importance of tripartite co-operation in helping the SSRO to build an understanding of the purpose of reports and eliminating duplication where possible and improving efficiency in the way data is collected.
- 1.8 In light of the responses received, we have revised our data strategy to emphasise the need to understand the cost of reporting and, where appropriate, to minimise the burden of reporting. Given that the majority of the feedback related to implementation, it has been used to inform our next steps in delivering the SSRO's programme of work in 2019/20.
- 1.9 The SSRO will be guided by the principle of proportionality when implementing the data strategy and will explore ways to make the process for data collection more efficient. Work has already begun to engage with industry and the MOD to ensure reporting requirements are understood and rationalised. This will continue into 2019/20 and beyond.

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- 1.10 Stakeholders expressed a commitment to future collaboration and to work with us on delivering the review of reporting requirements in 2019/20 across the three key themes – Defined Pricing Structure, amendments and variances and overheads - and to give us their ideas and feedback, to shape our proposed next steps. The SSRO held a series of workshops in May to discuss these areas in more detail and we will be issuing working papers in summer to gather further feedback. We welcome the opportunity to work with contractors, MOD and other relevant bodies to shape the outcome of this review. We are committed to establishing the purpose of data and its use as a priority and, where possible, we want to see changes to minimise burden in collecting data.