



Ministry  
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

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Defence Equipment & Support  
Maple 0a # 2043  
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Bristol BS34 8JH



Via:

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Our Ref: FOI2020/04548

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 requesting the following information:

*I would like to obtain the information regarding the cost of certain equipment supplied to the British armed forces.*

*if possible I would like a full breakdown of all the individual costs of the 'Virtus' equipment, which I believe is made by the company source, that is issued to the British armed forces. included in this I would like the price of the current issued helmets "revision battleskin cobras"*

*If this is not possible I would like specifically the pricing of the following items:*

- 1) The cost of the Revision Battleskin Cobra helmets
- 2) the cost of the Virtus issued Body armour

*Additional to this request I would also like to know:*

- 1) when trialling the new equipment of 'Virtus' what other brands of equipment were trialled
- 2) what was the costs of these compared to the 'Virtus'.
- 3) And why the decision was made to buy 'Virtus'.

*And finally I'd like to request the cost of the development for the SA80 A3.*

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, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 43 (2) considers information which if released is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. A person may be an individual, a company, the MOD, or any other legal entity. Disclosing the information requested would be considered a breach of commercial confidentiality and would weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information and/or information of usefulness to its competitors. This could result in other companies being reluctant to

provide commercially sensitive information to the MOD and undermine the MOD's ability to secure value for money. For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

The answers to your questions are as follows:

*If possible I would like a full breakdown of all the individual costs of the virtue equipment , which I believe is made by the company source, that is issued to the British armed forces. included in this I would like the price of the current issued helmets "revision battleskin cobras"*

This information is being withheld under section 43.

1) *The cost of the Revision Battleskin Cobra helmets.*

This information is being withheld under section 43.

2) *the cost of the Virtus issued Body armour.*

This information is being withheld under section 43.

In relation to your additional questions on Virtus:

1) *when trialling the new equipment of 'Virtus' what other brands of equipment were trialled.*

The following companies took part in the competitive exercise:

Thales UK  
BAE Systems  
Morgan Advanced Materials  
Source Vagabond

2) *what was the costs of these compared to the 'virtus'.*

This information is being withheld under section 43.

3) *And why the decision was made to buy 'Virtus'.*

Utilising the AWARD Evaluation Software Tool, the project followed the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) evaluation process and captured scores reflecting each candidate system's Technical, Cost and Management attributes. Scores were generated for each bid and then these were combined against a predefined hierarchy to give a single overall MEAT score for each system. The Tender Assessment Panel identified Source Vagabond as the winning MEAT bidder<sup>1</sup>; this company obtained the highest overall MEAT score.

In relation to your question on SA80:

*And finally I'd like to request the cost of the development for the SA80 A3.*

This information is being withheld under section 43.

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,

DES SEC Pol Sec Land Equipment

