



# Ministry of Defence

**Defence Business Services**  
Secretariat Team Drafter  
Room 6303  
Tomlinson House  
Norcross  
Thornton Cleveleys  
Lancashire  
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2020/03201, 03203,  
03204, 03205

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

Thank you for your emails of 5 March 2020 requesting the following information:

## **FOI2020/03201**

*Ministry of Defence (MOD)*

*I am looking for some assistance with your organisation's Spend/Transparency data, available on the following weblink:*

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fmod-spending-over-25000-january-to-december-2019&data=02%7C01%7CCIO-FOI%40mod.gov.uk%7C431c0c79122d4ed1e67f08d7c0fc6ce4%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637190062698417550&sdata=3RU8otbDNNIqskjTQlv3wmVgBgrJeFMUflaeMgTDSI0%3D&reserved=0>

*There appears to be no file available for the month of December 2019. Could you advise when the file will be made available to view online? Would it be possible for you to email me a copy of the December 2019 file please & Thank you.*

## **FOI2020/03203**

*Defence Infrastructure Organisation*

*I am looking for some assistance with your organisation's Spend/Transparency data, available on the following weblink:*

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fmod-spending-over-25000-january-to-december-2019&data=02%7C01%7CCIO-FOI%40mod.gov.uk%7Cd4a626904abd4b3b116e08d7c0fd14a4%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae>

[95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637190065523808789&data=wkGy01AdUit4otQ%2B9qq5krG4j3ZdfJuwOeu52GXK1T8%3D&reserved=0](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fmod-spending-over-25000-january-to-december-2019&data=02%7C01%7CCIO-FOI%40mod.gov.uk%7C2c98c8590edf490e26a408d7c0fd3846%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637190066110657570&sdata=g20RBvMkT4RmnoC%2BEkv61eY8k2K16K8D2BdiMBZPaP4%3D&reserved=0)

*There appears to be no file available for the month of December 2019. Could you advise when the file will be made available to view online? Would it be possible for you to email me a copy of the December 2019 file please & Thank you.*

#### **FOI2020/03204**

*National Army Museum*

*I am looking for some assistance with your organisation's Spend/Transparency data, available on the following weblink:*

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fmod-spending-over-25000-january-to-december-2019&data=02%7C01%7CCIO-FOI%40mod.gov.uk%7C2c98c8590edf490e26a408d7c0fd3846%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637190066110657570&sdata=g20RBvMkT4RmnoC%2BEkv61eY8k2K16K8D2BdiMBZPaP4%3D&reserved=0>

*There appears to be no file available for the month of December 2019. Could you advise when the file will be made available to view online? Would it be possible for you to email me a copy of the December 2019 file please & Thank you.*

#### **FOI2020/03205**

*Royal Hospital Chelsea*

*I am looking for some assistance with your organisation's Spend/Transparency data, available on the following weblink:*

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fmod-spending-over-25000-january-to-december-2019&data=02%7C01%7CCIO-FOI%40mod.gov.uk%7C69d43e3597ab4a47d3dd08d7c0fd4c4c%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637190066443289362&sdata=fjTcRIBalT%2BRX3dgA5aQDSMbof9aT8P7lineIQ02EME%3D&reserved=0>

*There appears to be no file available for the month of December 2019. Could you advise when the file will be made available to view online? Would it be possible for you to email me a copy of the December 2019 file please & Thank you.*

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

However, it is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication.

Under section 22 of the FOIA The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption, the MOD has considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with

the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, it has been concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

#### **Public interest considerations favouring disclosure**

- Disclosure would improve transparency in the operations of Government and Ministry of Defence
- Disclosure of the information under FOIA would be consistent with the department's commitment to proactively publish data on matters of a wider public interest.

#### **Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information**

- As the information is of interest to the wider public it is important it can be accessed simultaneously by the general public. Therefore, it is in the public interest that information is accessible to the wider public by adhering to the publication schedule.

The MOD has reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 22 of the FOIA at this time.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (advice and guidance) it may be helpful to advise that whilst every effort is taken to upload these statistics in a timely fashion checks are required to be completed prior to publication, to ensure the accuracy and quality of the data that is published. However, as I am sure you will appreciate, the Government's contingency planning for the COVID-19 crisis is currently affecting the Department's ability to complete these checks as quickly as we would like. As such, there may be delays in providing transparency data. I would, therefore, ask for your patience and understanding during this difficult time. Monthly data will continue to be uploaded at the first available opportunity.

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). 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,

***Dominic-Hadyn Braithwaite***

Defence Business Services Secretariat