

19 October 2020

Mr [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] email of 15 September 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about contingency workers.

You requested the following information:

"My organisation, OPRaaS, helps organisations save money through cost and efficiency savings initiatives, and I am interested to see if OPRaaS could help your organisation save 5-10% on its contingent worker spend per annum.

I should like to request the following information

- 1. If your organisation uses contingent workers (contractors, temps, freelancers), how many working currently across the organisation?*
- 2. What is the annual spend on contingent workers?*
- 3. If you have any framework and technology platform (Managed Service Programme or Provider /Vendor Management System) to manage the contingent workers?*
- 4. Through what government framework has the service been procured and when is it being retendered or up for renewal?*
- 5. Who is the incumbent Managed Service Provider and what Vendor Management System is being used?*
- 6. Who is the relevant point of contact in the organisation responsible for this process for any retender or renewal?*

I should prefer to receive these in electronic format at this email address; however, I am happy to receive them by post if that is more convenient.

If, for any reason, you feel this request is unclear, please do not hesitate to contact me at 07703036821. If you are not the appropriate authority for this request, or part of it, please let me know as soon as it is convenient.

If the information requested contains sections of confidential information, please blank out or remove these sections, and mark clearly that they have been removed."

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 MOD and I can confirm all the information in scope of your request is held. However, I have to advise you that information required for Question 2 is not held centrally and as such we would not be able to answer your questions without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes

provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

It may be helpful if I explain the engagement of agency workers, including specialists, administrative and executives, across the MOD is predominantly through the Public Sector Resourcing (PSR) Agreement which allows Government departments to request temporary employees. The link to the framework can be found below:

<https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/rm3749>

There are instances in which individual departments will temporarily employ individuals outside of the PSR framework. Therefore, in order to fully answer your questions, we would be required to interrogate each non-employee record via our Human Resources Management System. We would then need to contact each individual department in order to determine the method and cost of recruitment. Unfortunately, this means Question 2 would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Guidance) if you were to refine your request to Questions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 we would be happy to consider your request. We are, of course, open to considering any other refinement that you might suggest and will process it provided that it comes within the statutory cost-limit.

Additionally, you may be interested to know that detail of the Department's contracts, including the value of those contracts, is published to Defence Contracts online. Information regarding contracts awarded by the Ministry of Defence is published to Defence Contracts Online; our Annual Report and Accounts detail the amount spent on contingent labour, through the PSR. The link to this is provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministry-of-defence-annual-report-and-accounts-2018-to-19>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office

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

Defence Business Services Secretariat