



Ministry  
of Defence



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8 December 2021

Our Reference: FOI2021/114072

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I am writing about your request for information concerning the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Supplier Management Function (SMF) team.

On 4 September 2021, you originally asked:

*In 2015 Babcock purchased DSG (a MOD Trading Fund) and established a Supplier Management Function (SMF) to act as the interface between Babcock and all the various interested parties to the contract within MOD. Please provide the following information in relation to this SMF function for the full 6 years this contract has been in place and up to and including 1 September 2021:*

- 1. In each year of the contract so far, the organisation structure (post titles and function only).*
- 2. For the current year of the contract (as of September 2021) the current organisation structure (post titles and function only) showing which posts are filled and which are currently vacant.*
- 3. For each year of the contract so far, the number of actual staff employed in the SMF (accept with movement will be an average)*
- 4. For the current year of the contract (as of September 2021) the actual number of staff employed in the SMF*
- 5. For each year of the contract so far, the total cost of the SMF (breakdown to clearly show full salary and expense costs separately as well as operational function costs)*
- 6. For the current year of the contract (up to 1 September 2021) the cost of the SMF (breakdown to clearly show salary and expense costs separately as well as operational function costs)*
- 7. For each year of the contract so far, the number of vacant posts within the SMF (accept with movement will be an average)*

8. For the current year of the contract (as of September 2021) the actual number of vacant posts against the organisation structure.

On 4 October 2021 you kindly clarified your request, as follows:

*I seek information concerning the MOD SMF team within DE&S.*

*I appreciate your comments re the multi-function of the team. However, as a dedicated function with a dedicated cost centre the overall annual costs can be provided for the SMF in its entirety. This does not require the breach of GDPR or will it provide identifiable details relating to any individual therefore under Government Open Book accounting this information should be available. I am happy to receive the annual all up cost with no breakdown for each financial year from 2015 to date. I appreciate you feel unable to provide the detail between salary and expenses and operating costs although this is a little disappointing as with each item having its own coding this level of detail should be possible to provide.*

*I am aware of how MOD accounts are recorded and therefore know this level of information is available and would hope you could provide the breakdown as requested between salary, expenses, and operating costs.*

*I would also appreciate being provided with the organisational structures as per my original request going back to 2015. I will accept overall staff numbers for the earlier years if organisation structures are not available but do require average staff numbers as a minimum for each year from 2015 to-date.*

*For the current period I do require an organisational structure. Again, without names but with post descriptions of activity please.*

*I totally accept that you are unable to provide any details specific to the Service Provision and Transformation Contract between MOD and Babcock. I am therefore happy to receive the overall MOD SMF team costs as per my original request.*

On 9 November 2021, you further clarified your request, as follows:

*Thank you for your response and yes please can you provide the redacted organisation structures from 2017 to date as proposed in the attached.*

*I understand your constraint re the rest of my request on the basis of time and cost. However, within that limitation I would like to request the salary costs of the SMF team for the last financial year. This should be possible within the 3 day / £600 pound limit.*

*I look forward to receiving the organisation structures and the single 20/21 salary costs.*

Your correspondence has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. I can confirm that information falling within the scope of your revised request is held and can be provided.

A copy of the latest available organisation chart for the MOD SMF team is enclosed. In accordance with Section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOI Act, the names of the current incumbent of each post have been withheld. As Section 40 is an absolute exemption it was not necessary to determine the balance of interest in releasing or redacting this information.

Although you asked for copies of organisational charts for each year from 2017 to the present, in my letter of 28 October 2021 (Reference: FOI2021/11262) I explained that previous organisational charts are no longer held.

Details of the total headcount for the SMF team on 31 March in each year from 2017 to 2021 are provided in the table below, along with a snapshot of the current headcount as of 12 October 2021:

Date	SMF Team Headcount
31 March 2017	29
31 March 2018	32
31 March 2019	46
31 March 2020	41
31 March 2021	39
12 October 2021	40

It is not possible to provide headcount details prior to 2017. At that time this type of information was managed through the MOD's Human Resources Management System which cannot be scrutinised in a way to map individuals to specific projects or tasks.

Finally, the total basic salary cost of the SMF Team for the last complete Financial Year, 2020/2021, was £1.8 million. This figure excludes additional payments, such as back basic pay, payments made for substitution or temporary promotion, overtime, performance awards, National Insurance contributions, or pensions.

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



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