



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Business Services**

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Ref: FOI2021/07736

5 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 June to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

1. *“A list of all companies in the defence that MOD personnel have seconded to? Including numbers to each company*
2. *If this is not possible, a raw number of companies in the defence that MOD personnel have seconded to. To this request, please differentiate the number of companies within this that would be considered arms manufacturers.”*

*Additionally, thank you for your further email of 16 July 2021 clarifying the following information:*

*“Please can you tell me only about civilian personnel.  
I interested in both MOD Main and the Executive Agencies, but please highlight whether personnel belong to Main or Executive Agencies in your responses.  
I am not only interested in Strategic Supplier companies, please include all private/commercial companies.  
Please can you cover 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.”*

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held.

It may be helpful if I explain that when an employee is on secondment this is centrally recorded on the Human Resources Management System. However, there is no requirement to record which company the individual is seconded to. As such, there is no central record for many individuals regarding the company they have been seconded to. To establish this information would involve an individual examination of personnel records for each case.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate cost limits, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. It is estimated that it would take 20 minutes to examine an individual's

personnel file and as there are over 150 individuals whose file would come under consideration; this would far exceed the cost limit.

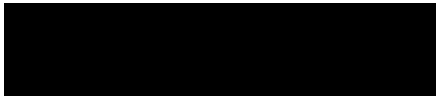
Please find attached at Annex A a breakdown of loans and secondments out of MOD for the years specified in your request. This includes both paid and unpaid loans and secondments.

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

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Defence Business Services Secretariat.

Defence Business Services Secretariat

Breakdown of Loans and Secondments out of MOD Main, Defence Equipment and Support, Defence Electronics and Components Agency, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to Private and Commercial Companies.

<b>Loan Department</b>	<b>MOD Main</b>	<b>DES</b>	<b>DECA</b>	<b>DSTL</b>	<b>UKHO</b>
BAE Systems	~	.	.	.	.
Charity	~	.	.	.	.
Chemring Countermeasures	.	.	.	~	.
OCCAR	~	~	.	.	.
Ploughshare	.	.	.	~	.
No Record	50	110	.	.	.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>115</b>	.	~	~

\*Figures have been rounded in line with MOD rounding policy. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. The tilde symbol ('~') represents a number lower than five but greater than zero. (.) represents zero value.