



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
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Ministry of Defence
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2021/08875
Date:
7 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 August 2021 requesting the following information:

“Please send me details for the period 2020-2021 on the following:

- a) The total value of the courier service contracts that were outsourced*
- b) The name of your primary courier supplier*
- c) The value of your primary supplier's contract*
- d) The expiry date of that contract*
- e) The total cost of the courier services that were not outsourced but managed in-house?*
- f) The number of staff employed in managing the in-house contracts*
- g) The number of vehicles either owned or leased to meet the in-house courier requirement*
- h) The name and email of the person responsible for the management of courier services.”*

I have treated your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). However, courier services for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) are contracted at the local unit level and details of these contracts are not centrally held.

Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of handling 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 requested information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. To provide you with details covering all your questions on courier service contracts would mean identifying all units within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), both in the UK and overseas, and then approaching them individually for the requested information. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide an estimate of how long this work would take, but it would exceed the £600 limit by a considerable amount.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI the MOD should assist the requestor to reduce of the scope of the request, in order to bring it below the £600 cost threshold. Unfortunately, on this occasion, it will not be possible to do so as this would not provide a meaningful response to answer the specific questions you have asked.

I can, however, refer you to the Government's Contracts Finder website, at <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>. You may be able to find information there to help with your request.

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

DE&S Secretariat