



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support  
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Ministry of Defence  
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Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Our Reference:  
FOI2022/01275  
Date:  
28 February 2022

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 30 January 2022 requesting the following information:

*"I am writing to request the following information regarding the company currently manufacturing the cavalry boots for the Queen's mounted guard:  
- Name and contact details of the manufacturing company  
- Details of the contract for the above (including price paid per pair of boots, number of pairs of boots being made and the expiry date of contract)"*

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 Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and can be found below.

However, some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemption section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency; and make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. The FOI Act also contains a presumption for release.

Section 43 (2) considers information which if released is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. A person may be an individual, a company, the MOD, or any other legal entity. Disclosing the information concerning the price paid per pair of boots and the quantities would be considered a breach of commercial confidentiality and would weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information and/or information of usefulness to its competitors. This could result in other companies being reluctant to provide commercially sensitive information to the MOD and undermine the MOD's ability to secure value for money. For these reasons I have set the

level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of “would” rather than “would be likely to”.

The information you have requested is as follows:

**Name and Contact details of the manufacturing company:**

Schneiders of London  
16 Clifford Street  
London  
W1S 3RG

**Details of the contract for the above**

Contract Title – The Supply of Jack Boots (LSL/DC/0024).

Contract Start Date: 01 May 2019.

Contract End Date: 30 April 2022 (with an option of a further 12 months).

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that, whilst I am not able to release the price paid per pair of boots or the quantities, the total current contract value is £765,000. You may also find it helpful to note that a competitive exercise for a new contract is due to commence shortly. The intention is to release the Invitation to Tender in March 2022, with the aim of awarding a replacement contract at the start of 2023. This will be advertised through the Find A Tender <https://www.gov.uk/find-tender> and Contracts Finder <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/> portals.

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

**DE&S Secretariat**