





Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat 

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Defence Equipment & Support
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MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol, BS34 8JH



Reference: FOI2022/14923

13 March 2023

Dear

Thank you for your email, dated 13 December 2022, requesting the following information:

Under freedom of information I would like to know how many contractors (Mode 1) are working in the ODF presently and the number of days each of those has worked for the ODF along with the total bill to the UK taxpayer for previous 12 months.

As stated in my previous letter, your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I previously confirmed that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information related to your request, but that we believed some of it may fall within the scope of the following qualified exemption Section 43 (Commercial Interests). As such it was necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

The information requested falls entirely within the scope of the Section 43(2) and has been withheld as its disclosure has the potential to prejudice the commercial interests of the MOD and adversely affect our continued commercial and working relationship with external companies. The balance of public interest was found to lie in favour of withholding the information because there is a strong public interest in preserving the commercial position of the MOD such that it is able to maintain its relationship with industrial partners. There is also a strong public interest in enabling the MOD to achieve the best value outcomes for the for the taxpayer in future competitive acquisitions and this could not be guaranteed if the requested information was disclosed. I have set the level of prejudice at the higher level of 'would' rather than the lower level of 'would be likely to'.

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/>.

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