



Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2023/04648

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

11 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 April 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"Subject: Translation Services (FTS Notice reference: 2022/S 000-021660)

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding the above contract:

1. *Copy of successful tender.*
2. *Final pricing of successful bidder.*
3. *Expiry date of the awarded contract.*
4. *Approximate date that the tender will be reissued towards the end of the current contract period.*
5. *How many bidders submitted responses?*
6. *Name of all bidders who submitted responses.*
7. *Rank of all bidders who submitted responses"*

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, and I can confirm all the information in scope of your request is held. However, some of the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible by other means) of the FOIA.

Section 21(1) has been applied as all the information apart from the bidder information and retender dates is available within the Contract Award Notices and, therefore, reasonably accessible to you at the following links:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b838a8ba-c0a2-4236-8f63-373057c5777f>
<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/021660-2022>

The "Final pricing of successful bidder" is the Limit of Liability Contract price of £114,500 as published in the Contract Award Notice. The Contract Award Notice also includes the number of Tenders received and the winning bidder information. Furthermore, the Find a Tender Contract Award Notice states the number of Tenders received.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption and as such, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The unsuccessful bidders were Global Connections (Scotland) Ltd and K International Limited, with the following ranking: 1 - Empire Group UK Ltd, 2 - Global Connections (Scotland) Ltd and 3 - K International Limited.

Regarding retender dates, if the option year is taken and the requirement remains extant, an Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be issued approximately January 2025. If the option year is not taken, and the requirement remains extant, an ITT will be issued approximately January 2024. If there is a Crown Commercial Services Language Services contract, the requirement will be competed under this contract in accordance with MOD policy.

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,



Defence Business Services (Secretariat)