



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Business Services**

Secretariat  
Room 6303  
Tomlinson House  
Norcross  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/05215

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

10 May 2023

Thank you for your email of 25 April 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*" Please can you provide me with the following information for the most recent complete fiscal year:*

- *Total number of temporary workers engaged by your organisation, broken down by department or function, if possible.*
- *Total annual expenditure on temporary workers, including a breakdown of costs by department or function, if possible.*
- *Total number of agency suppliers (Preferred Suppliers/non-Preferred Suppliers) in your organisation's labour supply chain*

*Details of any existing Managed Service Programme or Provider (MSP) and/or Vendor Management System (VMS) used to manage temporary workers:*

- *Name of the MSP and VMS.*
- *Date the contract was awarded.*
- *Date of contract expiration.*
- *Name of the government procurement framework through which the MSP and VMS were procured.*

*Details of any upcoming retendering or renewal processes related to your MSP and VMS contracts:*

- *Anticipated date for the retendering or renewal process to commence.*
- *Name and contact information of the person responsible for overseeing the retendering or renewal process."*

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. However, I have to advise you that as the information is not held centrally, we would not be able to answer your questions without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with 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 department

holds the information, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

It may be helpful if I explain the engagement of agency workers, including specialists, administrative and executives, across the MOD is predominantly through the Public Sector Resourcing (PSR) Agreement delivered by Alexander Mann Solutions Ltd (AMS). This allows Government departments to request temporary employees. The link to the framework can be found below.

<https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/rm3749>

However, there are instances in which individual organisations will temporarily employ individuals outside of the PSR framework. Therefore, in order to fully answer your questions, we would be required to interrogate each non-employee record and check with each organisation to ascertain any spending. Nineteen organisations make up Defence: the four Military Commands, the Defence Nuclear Organisation, UK Space Command, the twelve Enabling Organisations and Head Office. In order to fully answer your questions, we would be required to interrogate each organisation to ascertain any spending which unfortunately would exceed the cost limit.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that Information regarding contracts awarded by the Ministry of Defence is available on the Defence Sourcing Portal at <https://www.contracts.mod.uk/>

The Annual Report and Accounts detail the amount spent on contingent labour, pages 170 – 173 reference expenditure on consultancy and temporary staff, and off-payroll engagements which can be found at the following link:


<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministry-of-defence-annual-report-and-accounts-2021-to-2022>

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

  
Defence Business Services Secretariat