

8th September 2008

Sent via e-mail

Dear Mr Griffiths

Reference: Freedom of Information Requests: FOI 257690; FOI257692 and FOI 257696

I am writing further to my letter dated 13 August 2008 regarding your recent requests (listed above) for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request Number 1148-9db0b500 (FOI257690):

Q: Was there additional training given to EcovertFM security staff in security; if so who provided this training and; were public funds used to provide it?

A: When the Total Facilities Management contract came into operation in April 2002, the majority of security personnel employed by EcovertFM had been employed by the previous contractor, SERCO, and had accordingly been 'TUPE' transferred. Additional training was undertaken by EcovertFM and by their training provider, Senate Training. No public funds were used in the provision of this training.

Request number 1150-30f3389e (FOI257692)

Q: Was this contract (guarding at Admiralty House and 70 Whitehall) put out to tender and were EcovertFM given a financial incentive to take this contract?

A: The provision of a guarding service at Admiralty House had been included in the earlier full competitive tendering process for the provision of the Total Facilities Management contract. As there was also the required scope within the specification for that contract to permit the outsourcing of the 70 Whitehall guarding



Service; a re-tendering exercise was not necessary, but a full value for money exercise was undertaken. Payment for the provision of a guarding service at those 2 buildings is in full accordance with the agreed contractual arrangements for the provision of security across the department's estate.

Q: What was the financial budget for the Cabinet Office Guard Service in the 12 months before they were privatised?

A: Staff costs (salaries, social security, pension costs etc.) for the period October 2006 to September 2007 were just over £1.3ml.

Q: What has been the cost to the Cabinet Office since the privatisation of the Cabinet Office Guard Service for EcovertFM to provide the security at 70 Whitehall and Admiralty House? Following this outsourcing, has there been any financial savings for the public benefit and what are the figures to prove this?

A: Financial savings for the public benefit have been made. Further information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request number 1151-91846c79 (FOI257696)

Q: Between 2004 and 2007 what security training was provided for the Cabinet Office Guard Service by EcovertFM training provider Senate Training and what was the full cost of all this training??

A: Various training modules were delivered around this time, including:

- CPD security refresher programme
- SIA static and patrol man guarding
- Desk top exercises
- Conflict and communication management
- Report writing
- BTEC counter terrorism
- Evacuation marshal training
- CCTV monitoring
- Control room management

Further information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q: Why were the Cabinet Office Guard Service trained and then issued with the SIA Security Licence when they were a Government in-house guard service not requiring an SIA licence.

A: Although not a specific requirement, this action was undertaken to meet industry best practice and standards as well as to provide the guards with a higher level of competence along with a recognised training 'qualification'.

Q: Have other Government in-house security guards services been trained and issued with the SIA licence?

A: This is a matter for other departments.

Q: Was the training and issuing of the SIA Licence to the Cabinet Office Guard Service done in preparation of them being privatised and what date was it when the decision to privatise the Cabinet Office Guard Service taken?

A: No; 19/20 of April 2007

Q: What was the total cost of the training and providing the SIA licence to the Cabinet Office Guard Service?

A: The cost of providing SIA licences was £7,600. Further information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q: Which SIA licenses were issued to the Cabinet office Guard Service before they were privatised and how long before the Guard Service were the SIA licences issued?

A: Frontline security licences were issued some 3 or 4 months before the transfer.

Q: Once privatisation was known and EcovertFM had a date to take over the Cabinet Office guard service why were all the Guards given control room operators training – public area CCTV training – when only old C2 grades or more recently entitled Senior Guards needed to be trained. Was this training carried out at the

public expense and what was the full cost? Was this public area CCTV training given by Ecovert FM's training provider Senate training?

A: Although not a specific requirement, this action was undertaken to meet industry best practice and standards as well as to provide the guards with a higher level of competence and a recognised training 'qualification' It also provided members of the guarding force with the potential opportunity and flexibility to work elsewhere on the Cabinet Office estate and allowed management greater flexibility in deploying their staff resources thereby enabling contractual costs to the Cabinet Office be kept to a minimum. The training was carried out, at the public expense by Senate Training. Further information is being withheld under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the Cabinet Office reference numbers shown above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray
Director
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS
email: foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Jerry Page

