



Cabinet Office

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13 August 2008

Sent via e-mail

Dear Mr Griffiths

**Reference: Freedom of Information Requests: FOI257689; FOI 257690; FOI257691;
FOI 257692 and FOI 257696**

I refer to your recent requests (listed above) for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I should first correct an inaccuracy in your questions. The contract for the provision, by EcoverFM, of a Total Facilities Management service came into effect on 1 April 2002.

Please find below our reply to your questions number 1134-2b3405c2 (FOI 257689) and 1149-69462694 (FOI257691).

Regarding your questions numbered 1148-9db0b500 (FOI 257690); 1150-30f3389e (FOI 257692) and 1151-91846c79 (FOI 257696), I should explain that the FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days and a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information. In this case however, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies.

In your case we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies. Therefore we plan to let



you have a response by 11 September 2008. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed.

The specific exemption being considered in this case is Section 43.

Request Number 1134-2b3405c2: (FOI257689)

Q: How did Ecovernt fm Security prove their competence to be awarded a Government Guarding contract?

Q: If there was a competitive tender in place why was a company with no proven competence in security guarding allowed to tender for it?

A: The provision of a physical guarding service formed one, of a large number, of services which was covered by a full competitive tendering process for the provision of a Total Facilities Management contract. Competence was assessed as part of the selection process

Q: Was there a competitive tender in place for this security contract?

A: Yes; as mentioned above it formed part of the competitive tender for the provision of a Total Facilities Management service

Q: If not, why not?

A: N/A

Q: Was there a financial incentive (public funds) provided for Ecovernt fm security to apply for this contract?

A: No. The only payments made to EcoverntFM have been for the delivery of the Total Facilities Management contract; in full accordance with the pre-agreed contract specification.

Request number: 1149-69462694 (FOI257691)

Q: Did the Cabinet Office contract with Ecovernt fm influence Ecovernt fm in being successful in getting the Home Office tender for their new office building in Victoria London which opened in 2006?

Q: What was the competitive tender process used?

A: This is a matter for the Home Office.

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

