



Ministry  
of Defence

Headquarters Joint Force Development  
Defence Academy of the UK  
Shrivenham  
Swindon SN6 8LA  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2020/11158

E-mail: JFD-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

David Austin  
request-696257-d9d9dd84@whatdotheyknow.com

30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Mr Austin,

Your correspondence of 05 October 2020 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

*"I would like to understand the relationship between MOD and Kings College London (KCL). I understand staff from KCL teach at the defence academy. Could you please let me know whether these are MOD employees, or are they outsourced by serco? I would be grateful if you could please summarise the relationship between KCL and MOD in relation to the Defence Academy Shrivenham, and if necessary, please detail any contracts in place in relation to teaching at the Academy and any contractual costs or the costs paid for the provision of teaching."*

This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds information related to your request but that we believe that some of the information falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption: Section 43 (Commercial Interests). As such it is necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The FOIA requires 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 information a public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 10 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to let you have a response by 16 November 2020. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion we will let you know.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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,

JFD Secretariat