



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

16th November 2020

Dear Mr Austin,

Further to my previous letter of 30 October 2020, I am writing to inform you that we have concluded the public interest tests for the information identified as being in scope of your request for:

“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.”

I will address your request in two parts, firstly the relationship between Kings College London (KCL) and MOD, and secondly, contractual costs.

1. The MOD does not have a direct contractual relationship with KCL in relation to the Defence Academy at Shrivenham. KCL does provide academic services to the Defence Academy through the Joint Services Command Staff College (JSCSC) Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with Defence Management (Watchfield) Ltd (DM(W)L). DM(W)L sub-contract all services provided under this contract to Serco. Serco in turn sub-contract KCL for the provision of military education to the Defence Academy's JSCSC. The scope of academic activities provided by KCL under this contract can be found at Annex A to this letter.
2. The Defence Academy also have a direct contract with KCL for the provision of academic support at the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in London. RCDS operates independently from the JSCSC PFI.
3. You will recall that we considered some of the information to fall within the scope of exemptions provided for at Section 43 of the FOIA (Commercial Interests). Section 43 (2) considers information which if released is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. A person may be an individual, a company, the MOD, or any other legal entity. Disclosing the information requested would be likely to prejudice future competitive exercises by the contractor. It could also result in KCL, and other companies, being reluctant to provide commercially sensitive information to the MOD.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Careful consideration was given as to whether the contractual details you requested. According to the outcome of the public interest tests we are withholding details of costs.

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

The scope of the academic activities shall include but not be limited to:
a. Contributing to course development and scheduling, in accordance with JSP 822 and subject to a validated requirement, overseen by the JSCSC's Customer Executive Board.
b. Preparation and amendment of designated study material, including students' notes.
c. Lecturing whole courses, or portions thereof, on designated subjects within the individual's specialist ambit.
d. Conducting group discussions and seminars.
e. Marking and assessing students' written and verbal work where appropriate.
f. Advising individual students in producing major papers.
g. Providing advice and support to other of the Authority's organisations.
h. Research in direct support of designated subject areas and the JSCSC's wider research objectives and to sustain its required international status.
i. In consultation with the Authority's staff, evaluating courses to ensure that course and student objectives are continually met.
j. Provide expertise in broadly the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Policy, strategy and military doctrine.ii. Historical perspectives and lessons drawn from past military operations.iii. Principles of individual and group behaviour in organisations, military and other.iv. UK political, social and economic structures.v. Formulation of UK foreign and defence policy.vi. International relations.vii. Alliances and supranational organisationsviii. Principles of strategic and financial management.ix. Maritime strategy, airpower theory and practice and the strategy of land warfare.x. Defence economics.