



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment & ISTAR)

Maple 0a
#2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Mr Iain Overton

Your References:

Via:

request-282878-284d3203@whatdotheyknow.com

Our References:
FOI2015/06746

Date: 18 August 2015

Dear Mr Overton,

Thank you for your email of 28th July 2015 requesting the following information:

Please can you supply me, on an XL spreadsheet, the following information:

- 1. Details of all contracts issued since 9/11/01 for small arms purchases by the MOD. Can this be broken down year by year (e.g. 2001, 2002, 2003 - not financial years) and include how much each contract was awarded for and how much money was paid in the end.*
- 2. Details of all contracts issued since 9/11/01 for small arms munition purchases by the MOD. Can this be broken down year by year (e.g. 2001, 2002, 2003 - not financial years) and include how much each contract was awarded for and how much money was paid in the end.*
- 3. Details of all contracts issued since 9/11/01 for small arms attachment purchases by the MOD. Can this be broken down year by year (e.g. 2001, 2002, 2003 - not financial years) and include how much each contract was awarded for and how much money was paid in the end.*
- 4. For all the above please can you include the name and country origin of all winning tender corporations.*

Under the FOI rules, if you do not feel that this information request is sufficient to reply in full, please do help me formulate my question so that we can get the best answer together.

If there is a cost issue in terms of pulling this together, please do start with request 1 and continue from there.

As the DOD in the United States publishes all of its contracts online, I feel it is in the public interest for the MOD to do the same. If you do do this anyway, please can you direct me to the relevant websites.

Finally, you are legally duty bound to ensure that such information is already collated in a way that is easy for the public to access. As contract awarding is a key public concern, the information I require should be easily accessed. I am sure it is.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve at least some 30 man days of effort.

Section 12 of the 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, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. You could try requesting a shorter date range; in response to question two alone, over 660 contracts have been placed. Electronic information goes back approximately three years and to retrieve older information will necessitate files being returned from archive, noting that under normal circumstances these files are destroyed when they are more than six years old. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the following site www.gov.uk/acquisition-operating-framework gives instructions on how to access the Acquisition System Guidance which in turn allows access to the Commercial Toolkit. I would then suggest that you refer to the Advertising guidance on the Commercial Toolkit which gives information on MOD policy, and legal obligations, when advertising and placing contracts. This policy is strictly adhered to. It also provides direction on how to locate the publications on-line where advertisements for tenders and contract awards can be viewed. Similarly, there is guidance on Transparency on the Commercial Toolkit.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

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