



Ministry
of Defence



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Reference: FOI2020/01641

Dear Dr Briant,

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2020 which asked for the following information:

Please could I see a full list of any projects undertaken or bid for on research/TAA/Strategic communication projects by Behavioural Dynamics, Universal Live Communications and Harrington Oakes, between beginning of 1989 - end of 1991 including project description, dates, and how much any specific contract was funded.

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), but I am unable to confirm whether any information in scope of your request is held without exceeding the appropriate cost limit for FOI requests.

The central MOD contracts database does not hold any information from that period and an initial keyword search of the MOD archives has failed to identify any relevant files. I have also consulted the most likely MOD teams to hold such information, who have confirmed they have no records in scope. However, I cannot definitively confirm that no information is held without conducting a more comprehensive search of the archives and requesting that all MOD teams search their records.

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. I estimate that establishing whether information in scope of your request is held would take more than 1,300 hours at a cost of around £22,500.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), the MOD is obliged to provide advice on how you could bring the cost of compliance under the limit. However, given the specific time period in which you are interested and the fact that the most likely MOD teams to hold information are unaware of any such projects, it is difficult to suggest a realistic refinement. You may wish, therefore, to conduct a search of the National Archives. Should you need it, the following link will take you to the National Archives website: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

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

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,

DE&S Secretariat