

Josie Mullen

By email: request-780598-7aeccb04@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2021/16467

1 September 2021

Dear Josie Mullen

We refer to your request where you asked:

*“One of the world’s major fossil fuel advisors, Boston Consulting Group [BCG], boasts that 19 of the world’s leading 25 oil companies are their clients.....and yet Boston Consulting Group is now the chief advisor to the COP 26 team based in the Cabinet Office –*

*BCG Statement*

*‘BCG works with oil and gas companies around the globe on the most pressing issues of the day. We partner with organisations and unlock solutions across the entire value chain of their portfolio, creating long-lasting growth.....’*

*‘Refining and marketing companies’ performance was particularly noteworthy over the five-year period—2014 through 2018—that BCG studied. These businesses, propelled by strong margin expansion and relatively strong earnings growth, led all subsectors. International players did especially well, many benefiting from their access to emerging markets that are characterized by strong demand for fuel.’*

*Their function, within the Cop Unit is:*

- Providing strategy implementation*
- Strengthening the project management function*
- Supporting the high level champions workstreams*

*The contract is worth £1,180,000*

*Please supply the following information:*

*[1] Where was the Tender for this contract advertised?*

*[2] When was the Tender for this contract advertised?*

*[3] Which companies were involved in the Tender process*

*[4] If there was no Tender process - please supply all information that explains why not*

*[5] The UK government stated that it would not accept sponsorship from fossil fuel companies, and yet it has permitted a company that has/ has had 19 of the biggest oil companies as its clients, to be at the heart of COP 26. Please supply all information that explains this complicity with the oil industry*

*[6] Boston Consulting Group is a client of Portland Communications. Two of their ex consultants/directors were George Eustice MP [Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs] and the Conservative Peer James O'Shaughnessy. Please supply all evidence that clearly shows that they declared their past connection to this company."*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that some of the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, being information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and the Cabinet Office is not required to consider whether the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

In response to questions 1,2,3 and 4, this was conducted as a direct award in line with public sector procurement guidelines. This was published on 22nd May, and you can find the details on the link below:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/18f69aeb-db2a-4f30-abdd-6135141e40a7?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

In response to question 5, the COP26 unit has been looking for organisations committed to taking positive action to tackle climate change and which have strong climate credentials. For example, all our sponsors have committed to or set Science Based Targets and/or joined the race to zero, and committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050 or earlier.

In response to question 6, the COP26 unit does not hold records of declarations regarding consultants to BCG or former directors of those businesses.

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:

Rachel Anderson  
Head of Freedom of Information  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.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 the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Anderson', is written over a faint, light grey circular watermark or background mark.

FOI Team  
Cabinet Office