



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Advanced Manufacturing & Defence
Directorate
Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
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Gareth Brading

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Our ref: FOI2016/15061

2nd August 2016

Dear Mr Brading,

Thank you for your email of 22 June 2016 to the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) where you requested the following information:

Total cost of operating the British Shipbuilders Corporation (shell corporation), from privatization of the company assets in 1989 until formal abolition in 2013.

In 2013, the British Shipbuilders Corporation, formerly responsible for the shipbuilding industry from 1977 until 1989, was officially abolished as part of the coalition government's public body reforms. I'm interested to know the total cost of operating the shell corporation of British Shipbuilders, during the period from 1989, when the company actively ceased shipbuilding, until dissolution in 2013.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

Due to recent Machinery of Government changes your request is being answered by the new Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. This response is based on information held by BIS on the day your request was made.

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of BIS paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by this Department.

I can advise you that at the point of abolition of the corporation the savings amounted to around fifteen thousand pounds per year as there was no longer any need for the company secretary position.

It is our understanding that the early years were spent selling off the shipyards and assets and managing the remaining liabilities. The information on the costs in the later years may be available from obtaining the corporation's accounts from Companies House.

Due to the nature of the earlier information that you are seeking, your request may be more appropriately undertaken by researching the records at the National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

E-mail: foi.requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Advanced Manufacturing & Defence Directorate