



Department for International Trade

Department for International Trade
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Our Ref: FOI2019/03884

15 August 2019

Dear Mr Delahunty,

Thank you for your email of 12 August where you requested the following information (I quote):

"Can you provide correspondence between officials or employees of the Export Control Joint Unit and companies that currently hold export licenses for military and dual-use items specifically with Saudi Arabia between June 1 and August 1 2019"

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).

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our electronic records, I have considered your request under the Act and I am writing to advise you that this Department holds information falling within scope of your request.

However, from our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the cost limit of £600 provided under s12 of the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act'). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require us to manually go into each individual application in order to retrieve information relating to correspondence in respect of these licences. This would entail clicking through multiple screens and downloading multiple documents/e-mails attached to each individual application. Once downloaded, we would also need to extract the relevant information that would fall within the scope of your request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by requesting information that relates to a shorter period of time and/or by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain.

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 two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit
Department for International Trade
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW Email: foi@trade.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,

Department for International Trade