



Department for International Trade

Department for International
Trade
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FOI2020/05692

4 February 2021

Dear Mr Kevin McEvoy ,

Thank you for your email of 2 November where you requested the following information:

In the following FOI request, you noted that " DIT have provided assistance to a business which, as part of its product offering, provides Facewatch technology in Brazil":

https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Frequest%2F626720%2Fresponse%2F1499993%2Fattach%2F3%2FFinal%2520response%252005672.pdf%3Fcookie_passthrough%3D1&data=04%7C01%7Cfoi%40trade.gov.uk%7C415fc06aee274cca7f1908d87e8e9bdb%7C8fa217ec33aa46fbad96dfe68006bb86%7C0%7C1%7C637398498268097462%7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljojV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=yUeJ95AC7gJGry3FtArZbaNevxEJtNQZtc9rDGP%2Fkpw%3D&reserved=0

Please tell me, for the years 2019 and 2020:

- what is full nature of DIT "assistance"?
- has DIT issued export licence for Facewatch, or its partner Staff Security Services Ltd, for facial recognition technology/cameras to be sent to Brazil
- provide me all communication (email/text/whatsapp/minuted meetings) between DIT and Facewatch and/or Staff Security Services Ltd with regards to Brazil
- apart from Conor Burns' trip to Brazil in April 2019, has DIT had any communication with Rio state governor Wilson Witzel with regards to facial recognition technology/cameras? If so, please send me all communications (email/text/whatsapp/minuted meetings).

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).

We can confirm that The Department for International Trade does hold information within the scope of your request. However, some of this information is exempt under section 40 (Personal information) of the Act (see below for further information on section 40 – Personal information).

Q1: What is full nature of DIT "assistance"?

Answer: We have assisted The Staff Security introducing them to key contacts in Brazilian government and offered them to join DIT to exhibit in the 30 International Security Symposium, which they have declined.

Q2: Has DIT issued export licence for Facewatch, or its partner Staff Security Services Ltd, for facial recognition technology/cameras to be sent to Brazil

Answer: No, we do not issue any export licences and have not done so.

Q3: Provide me all communication (email/text/whatsapp/minuted meetings) between DIT and Facewatch and/or Staff Security Services Ltd with regards to Brazil

Answer: Please see attached Annexe which has been redacted under section 40(2) (personal information) containing all communication held (email/text/whatsapp/minuted meetings) between DIT and Facewatch and/or Staff Security Services Ltd with regards to Brazil.

Document 1 – signed declaration by DIT supporting the work of Staff Security in Brazil

Document 2 – Introductory Email chains between DIT and Staff Security and setting of meetings in Brazil.

Document 3 – Whatsapp messages between DIT and Staff Security setting up meetings in Brazil.

The Department is withholding audio conversations between DIT and Staff Security, and, photographic images of staff at DIT or Staff Security as these are exempt under section (40)(2) (personal information).

Q4: apart from Conor Burns' trip to Brazil in April 2019, has DIT had any communication with Rio state governor Wilson Witzel with regards to facial recognition technology/cameras? If so, please send me all communications (email/text/whatsapp/minuted meetings).

Answer: DIT does not hold any communication with Rio state governor Wilson Witzel with regards to facial recognition technology/cameras.

Section 40 (Personal Information)

Section 40(2) of the Act provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. The exemption is designed to address the tension between public access to official information and the need to protect personal information.

I can confirm that the Department does hold some information within the scope of your request. We are not obliged, however, under Section 40(2) of the Act to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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