



Ministry  
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat

Dr Emma Briant

Via:

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12 September 2019 Our Ref: FOI2019/09502

Dear Dr Briant,

Thank you for your email of 15 August 2019 requesting the following information:

*I'm writing to request information about whether the contractor Strategic Communication Laboratories (SCL) or their related company IOTA Global ever applied for contracts for projects or work which they failed to get, if so could I please have a list of these and if time please, any related written assessments / reasoning for the decision*

I am treating this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) may hold some information in scope of your request. However, I regret that it is not possible to identify whether any of the information requested is held without exceeding the appropriate limit for responding to FOI requests. 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.

The information you have requested is not held centrally so, in order to respond to this request, a number of teams would need to be approached across the MOD to locate and extract any information in scope. A conservative estimate for the MOD to undertake this search is in excess of £800,000.

Under Section 16 of the Act (advice and assistance), you may wish to note that the MOD may be able to provide some information if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance within the acceptable limit. For example, you may wish to confine your request to a specific area of the MOD or contracts relating to a specific project. The MOD organisation chart can be accessed at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-organisation-charts>.

It may also be worth noting that, as SCL started trading in 1993, it is likely that documentation associated with any early SCL bids for contracts would have been archived and destroyed in line with MOD information management guidelines.

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](mailto: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.