

Mr Ben Jacob

request-597736-8b2bc84b@whatdotheyknow.com



Our ref: FOI 2019/09559

Your ref:

Date: 16 September 2019

Dear Mr Jacob,

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2019 to the Ministry of Defence requesting the following information:

“Regarding the research and financial relationships the Ministry of Defence has with Oxford University.

Please list all projects, industrial research and industrial consultancy that the MoD has funded or partially funded at the university over the past five academic years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019).

Please ensure that the information shows the department with which the project was undertaken, the start and end date of the contract/project, the title of the project/research/donation and the total funding of each contract/project year-by-year for the past five academic years.

Please also show any public research councils or private bodies involved or participating in the contract/project in question.”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

While we can confirm that Dstl holds some information within the scope of your request, we have to advise you that in accordance with Section 12 (Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit), we will be unable to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

Section 12 of the FOIA 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.

In these circumstances, we are not obliged under the FOIA to comply with your request. Therefore, you may wish to refine your request to narrow its scope in order to bring it within the appropriate limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, you may wish to consider refining your request to the past three financial years (2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19). Additionally, we would also like to make you aware that Dstl does not hold records in academic years. The final part of your

request for information relating to public research councils or private bodies involved or participating in the contract/project falls outside of the cost exemption as this information is not held centrally and would involve independently reviewing approximately 40 contracts or projects.

Please note that any new request would be given a separate reference number and we would then consider whether we could provide the information requested within the appropriate cost limit. This would, of course, be subject to the consideration of whether any of the exemptions under the FOIA applied to the information concerned.

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). 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,

Dstl Secretariat