



Ministry
of Defence



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Dear Ms Rayden,

Your email dated 3 July 2018 is considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

How many times in the past ten years has the MoD awarded a contract to a company with a risk of between "eight out of ten" and "ten out of ten", please?

How much were each of these contracts worth? And who were they with?

I regret that it is not possible to provide the information requested without exceeding the appropriate limit for responding to FOI requests because the information is not held centrally. The rating system in question is not generated internally by the Ministry of Defence. Rather, it is a public source used as one of several factors to assess a company's performance. Therefore, to answer your request, it would require an individual to analyse every contract awarded over the last ten years and assess the company's status at that moment in time. In many instances, this may not be possible.

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, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

It is not possible to put a precise estimate on the costs this would entail. However, a conservative approximation is that it would be in excess of £100,000 for an individual to undertake this task for contracts in just the past five years.

Section 16 of the FOIA requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to requesters, so far as it is reasonable to do so. You may, therefore, wish to consider refining your request to details of contracts awarded to a specific company over the last ten years. However, you are advised that any refinement will be treated as a new request and be subject to the full requirements of the FOIA.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal

review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DE&S Secretariat Parliamentary