



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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FOI2020/04844

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Ms A Rayden  
[request-660272-0395f29e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-660272-0395f29e@whatdotheyknow.com)

5 May 2020

Dear Ms Rayden,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 April 2020 in which you requested the following information:

- '1. Please would it be possible to know the cost of the private consultancy firms currently working at (or on behalf of) senior officers based at Navy Command HQ? Please would it be possible to know the names of the consultancy firms involved?
2. Please would it be possible to know the cost of private consultancy firms which either worked at Navy Command HQ (or on behalf of senior officers based there) during the last financial year (2019-20)?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Following consideration of your request by our subject matter experts (SMEs), it has become apparent that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requires further detail from you to determine the precise information you are seeking. My SMEs have advised that the costs that fall to the Manpower Budget area fall into two distinct categories; Consultancy and Professional Services, both of which are two distinctly different areas.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, it may help if I explain that Consultancy is defined by the Cabinet Office in its guidance as 'the provision to management of objective advice relating to strategy, structure, management or operations of an organisation, in pursuit of its purposes and objectives. Such advice will be provided outside the 'business-as-usual' environment when in-house skills are not available and will be time-limited'. Professional Services relates to the outside assistance brought in to undertake work where there is a gap in capability inhouse.

As such, can you please confirm whether it is only Consultancy costs you are seeking information on or whether you also wish to know the costs associated with Professional Services too?

Under S.1(3) of the FOI Act, a Public Authority may refuse to respond to an FOI request where it requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested. It will be necessary to close your enquiry under this reference number until we have received clarification as detailed above. Once the further information is received this will constitute a new request of which there will be a new 20 working day period to respond and other exemptions may also apply.

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 this office 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, Ground Floor, Zone D, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

