



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/14792

E-mail: ISS-SecretariatGpMbx@mod.gov.uk

Elizabeth Cutts
[request-534031-8838cfe7@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

7 December 2018

Dear Ms Cutts,

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2018 requesting the following information:

“Volume of business (£GBP ex VAT) awarded to private companies without competition in 2016 by MOD (ISS), Corsham.
- How many companies received non-competed extensions by MOD (ISS), Corsham beyond their original contract term in 2016 and the total value (£GBP ex VAT) of these extensions.
- Volume of business (£GBP ex VAT) awarded to private companies without competition in 2017 by MOD (ISS), Corsham.
- How many companies received non-competed extensions by MOD (ISS), Corsham beyond their original contract term in 2017 and the total value (£GBP ex VAT) of these extensions.
- Volume of business (£GBP ex VAT) awarded to private companies without competition in 2018 (year-to-date) by MOD (ISS), Corsham.
- How many companies received non-competed extensions by MOD (ISS), Corsham beyond their original contract term in 2018 (year-to-date) and the total value (£GBP ex VAT) of these extensions.
- How many companies (quantity of companies (and their organisation names if possible)) that have had non-competed extensions during the period 2016 to 2018 are currently engaged by MOD (ISS) in any capacity as at 21 Nov 18.”

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

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit for the reasons outlined below.

- The definition of a “private” company has been interpreted to mean those suppliers that are categorised as Limited to the UK only. However, it should be noted that although some suppliers to the MOD are Ltd in the UK, they are owned internationally and records are not held centrally.
- Until the end of 2016, the MOD’s contracting records were not held centrally but on a number of different IT systems. In 2016, the MOD commenced a 3-4 year progressive roll-out of a centralised Contracting, Purchasing and Finance (CP&F) IT system to capture the Department’s contracting activities and this roll-out process continues. The ongoing roll-out, which is collecting data recorded on different IT systems with slightly different categories for recording information, means that MOD cannot be assured of the accuracy of the data which would be required to answer your questions in full.

- Recording whether or not a contract was let competitively or not has not been fully captured since CP&F initially rolled out in 2016 and so any information held cannot be relied upon as accurate.
- Information is not held centrally regarding whether or not a contract has been extended competitively.

To accurately answer your questions, CP&F would need to be interrogated to produce a list of all contracts let by MOD – Information Systems and Services (ISS) – Corsham. Hard copy files for each contract would need to be recalled from archive and manually reviewed line by line to extract the information necessary to provide you with a full and accurate response. We conservatively estimate the cost to reply in full to your request to be at least £1,237.

Section 12 of the FOI 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 MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. It's difficult to offer a useful refinement as the Department is currently migrating to CP&F and due to the reasons listed above the data available would not accurately answer your queries. We would suggest that you limit your request to the following question: "*Volume of business (£GBP ex VAT) awarded to private companies in 2016 by MOD (ISS), Corsham.*" We would also require you to define what you mean by private company. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

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,

ISS Secretariat