



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Mr P Burt

Our Reference:
07-06-2011-091736-002

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Dear Mr Burt,

Further to my email of 7 June 2011, I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your Freedom of Information request in which you ask for the following information about disclosed costs of projects under the Government's Transparency Policy:

1) Whether information on the costs of any of the following projects has been disclosed under the government's transparency policy relating to payments over £25,000, and whether information on payments made in relation to each of these projects can be found among the spreadsheets at <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-mod>:

- Payments made to BAE Systems for concept and design work on 'Successor' submarines intended to replace the current Vanguard class submarines;*
- Payments made to Rolls Royce for concept and design work on the proposed reactor for 'Successor' submarines;*
- Payments made to Rolls Royce for refurbishment necessary to maintain manufacturing capability at the company's Raynesway site;*
- Payments made to BAE Systems for manufacturing work on Astute class submarines currently under construction;*
- Payments made to principal contractors working on design and manufacturing of the proposed new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers; and*
- Payments made to contractors in relation to purchase of Typhoon aircraft.*

2) If any of this information has been included in the spreadsheets, please advise me where it can be located.

3) If the information has been excluded from the spreadsheets please advise me of the reasons for this, and the exemptions under which exclusion of this data has been justified.

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4) The Ministry of Defence web-page which you cite in your reply states that the Cabinet has authorised exemption from publication of costs information relating to "warlike stores" and "militarily sensitive technical information" for an initial twelve month period. I should be grateful if you would inform me when this period ends; whether the Cabinet Office has agreed to extend the exemption, and if so, until which date.

I can confirm we do hold information that addresses the questions you raised in your request. With regard to your first three questions, financial information relating to the payments made to the contractors you listed, has not been included in the spreadsheets found at <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-mod>. This is because the information you requested is exempt from publication under the Government's transparency agenda, as it relates to the procurement of "Warlike Stores".

In answer to your final question regarding the period to which this exemption covers, the Cabinet Office agreed these exemptions in late October 2010, for a 12 month period. The exemption will therefore run until 31 October 2011 whereupon it will be reviewed.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Waite