

STATISTICAL NOTICE TO TABLES 1.17 & 1.17a, UKDS 2011

SUBJECT: DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CONTRACTS DATA CONTAINED IN *UK DEFENCE STATISTICS* AND “TRANSPARENCY” DATA PUBLISHED ON MOD WEBSITE

During 2010 the Government announced plans to publish a monthly-updated list of all financial transactional spending over £25,000 made by the Ministry of Defence and its family organisations as part of the Government's commitment to transparency within its business activities. The data can be found at the link below.

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModSpend/ModSpendOver25000DataFiles.htm>

Over the past year a range of Departmental information has been made publicly available for the first time (see [Special Supplement: Responding to the Transparency Agenda](#)). The Department is obligated to release certain information on procurement and contracting. Given the sensitive nature of some MOD procurement, there will inevitably be information contained within either the tender or contract documents which, if released into the public domain, could compromise National Security, the security of those who work for or with us, the capability and effectiveness of our Armed Forces, or the legitimate commercial interests of both the MOD and those we contract with.

The MOD has therefore agreed a number of concessions with the Efficiency Reform Group and Her Majesty's Treasury regarding the application of Transparency to MOD contractual activities. These concessions will be reviewed in October 2011 and include an exemption to publication of tenders and contracts for 'Warlike Stores' as defined in the [EC Council List of Items Defining The Scope Of Article 346 of the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union](#). This concession is in addition to those tenders and contracts which would normally be exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

A full description of those items which come under this exemption and are therefore excluded from the Transparency data can be found [here](#).

Table 1.17 shows the names of suppliers to whom MOD made payments of £5 Million or more in 2010/11 and it is apparent that should a similar analysis be undertaken of the transparency data to identify those suppliers who have received the largest amounts of money during 2010/11 then the list of supplier names will differ greatly.

This divergence between data published in *UK Defence Statistics* and that released under transparency will continue for the foreseeable future. *UK Defence Statistics* publishes information based on all spend by MOD (sorted alphabetical and by broad payment banding) and does not display data at a level that could be considered sensitive, disclosive or impact on contractual confidentiality. Transparency data currently excludes transactions of under £25,000 and when payments redacted by MOD are taken into account only around 20% of all MOD spend with industry and commerce is included in the 2010/11 figures.