



Ministry  
of Defence



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Email: DESSEC-FOI@mod.uk

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Our Reference:  
FOI2014/01590  
Date:  
12 June 2014

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Dear 

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2014 requesting the following information:

*Please could you provide the following information about the Public Services (Social Value) Act.*

- i. Has your department taken any actions in order to implement the social value act? (e.g. strategy, guidance, staff training or other) If yes, please detail.*
- ii. Do you have any mechanisms in place to monitor how the act is being implemented in individual instances of commissioning? If yes, please detail.*
- iii. Are you able to give any examples of instances of the act being implemented in your department's commissioning process?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that we hold some information relevant to your request. I will address each of your questions in turn:

- i. No MOD specific guidance has been issued on the implementation of the Public Services (Social Value) Act, however under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to note that existing guidance on the Acquisition Operating Framework (AOF) already covers the spirit of the Act. This guidance states that sustainability (which covers the social, environmental and economic impacts and which is the remit of the Act) must be considered at every stage of the acquisition cycle. The AOF defines how we conduct, govern and control our defence acquisition processes. For more information, you can register for access at: <https://www.gov.uk/acquisition-operating-framework>.
- ii. There are no mechanisms in place in the MOD to monitor how the Act is being implemented in individual instances of commissioning.
- iii. To give examples of how the Act has been implemented in our commissioning process would require us to individually consult more than 100 MOD Project Teams to establish which pre-procurement activity since 31 January 2013 (when the Act was fully implemented) had explicitly taken the Act into account. Section 12 of the 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, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that establishing which pre-procurement

activity had taken account of the Public Services (Social Value) Act would take in excess of 52 hours at a cost of more than £1,300. Under Section 16 of the FOIA, you may find it helpful to note that we are more likely to be able to comply with your request if, for example, you were to consider limiting your request to specific projects or types of equipment in which you are interested.

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.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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.