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Our Reference
D/DGDC Sec IP/1.7.20-04-2011-
143213-003-██████████

Date
20 May 2011

Dear ██████████

Your correspondence dated 15 April 2011 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

20-04-2011-143213-003-██████████ – meeting between Liam Fox, SofS, and Finmeccanica, in Nov 10 to discuss "UK-French summit implications". I understand that Sir Kevin Tebbit, chairman of Finmeccanica, attended this meeting.

20-04-2011-144016-004-██████████ – meetings between MOD Ministers and David Gould, executive chairman of Selex Systems, between Mar 1 10 & the present day.

20-04-2011-145736-005-██████████ – meetings between senior MOD officials and Sir Roger Wheeler, of Thales UK Air Defence, between Jan 1 09 & the present day (definition of senior officials in this case: PUS; CDM; CDS; VCDS & 2PUS).

20-04-2011-150321-006-██████████ – meetings between MOD Ministers and Sir Richard Mottram, chairman of Amey, since his appointment on Aug 19 08.

20-04-2011-150840-007-██████████ – meetings between MOD Ministers and Sir Robert Walmsley, chairman of EDO (UK), between May 1 07 & Jan 20 09.

27-04-2011-174154-005-██████████ – meetings between senior MOD officials and John Howe, vice-chairman of Thales UK Air Defence, between Jan 1 07 & Mar 1 09 (definition of senior officials in this case: PUS; CDM; CDS; VCDS & 2PUS).

19-05-2011-122055-001-██████████ – meetings between MOD Ministers and Sir Roger Wheeler, of the defence firm Thales UK Air Defence, between January 1 2009 and the present day.

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests if they "relate, to any extent, to the same or similar information". In this case all your requests are for information relating to meetings between MOD Ministers and senior MOD officials, and representatives from industry, and they were all received within a period of sixty working days.

These requests have therefore been aggregated and, in line with the regulations, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is taken to be the total costs of complying with all of them. I can confirm that we hold information on the subject you have requested. However, it has been assessed that the costs for which we are permitted to charge in providing this information will exceed the appropriate limit. This appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under the terms of Section 12 of the FOI Act, this means that we are not obliged to comply with your request.

The MOD may be able to provide information requested if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit i.e., identify the specific meeting you are interested in.

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,

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[Original Signed]