



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Commercial Procurement Group
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

21 January 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0961-15

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like a list of all contracts between the FCO and Adam Smith International (ASI) agreed since 2004. I would expect this list to include:

- 1. The date of the contract*
- 2. A title or description of the contract*
- 3. Any contract or project ID numbers*
- 4. The value of the contract*
- 5. The country or countries in which the work was to be undertaken*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

Please find attached in Annex A the information the FCO can release to you. Some of the information has been withheld using Section 24 (1) National Security and Sections 38 (1) (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested material, we are concerned that releasing details of some of the contracts would undermine effective operation of these projects and consequently adversely impact on the

UK's security. We have concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

In addition releasing the information could endanger the safety of individuals and has therefore been withheld under Sections 38(1) (a) and (b). In applying the public interest test we again took into consideration the factors in favour of disclosure; in this case that releasing such information would demonstrate openness and public accountability. However, against this is the need for the FCO to ensure the health and safety of our employees and visitors. If this information were released, it could potentially expose third party providers under contract to the risk of potential attack. We therefore consider that the reasons for withholding this information outweigh those for releasing.

The contracts with Adam Smith International are all vital projects to help bring stability and resolve conflict which is essential to the security and prosperity for the UK. The contracts were awarded either through open competition on the Government's Contracts Finder website or via existing agreements with suppliers.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

The copies of information being supplied to you continue to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the FCO will have been produced by government officials and will be protected by Crown Copyright. To re-use Crown Copyright documents please consult the [Open Government Licence v3](#) on the National Archives website.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non-Crown Copyright) information.

Yours sincerely,

Commercial Procurement Group



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.