Dear [Name],

Defence Suppliers Forum (DSF) Exports Group Minutes

Thank you for your email of 5 April 2013 which has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

I would like to request the minutes from the Defence Supplier's Forum Export Group meeting that took place on the 16.2.2013.

If minutes are not available, I would like a list of those present (with names and positions for politicians and senior officials, and positions for those to whom Section 40 exemptions are applied). Where the document is redacted, please indicate that this is the case.

Please provide a list of any abbreviations used, and please provide all documents in a machine readable format (not scanned documents).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm there was not a meeting of the DSF Exports Group held on 16 February 2013 and therefore no minutes to provide you with. I can, however, provide a copy of the minutes from the last meeting DSF Executive Group which was held on the 11 March. Please find the copy of these minutes attached.

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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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOL-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,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

DECS
Defence Suppliers Forum Exports Sub Group
Record of Meeting held on 11th March 2013

Those present:
Co-Chairs
Richard Paniguian – UKTI DSO
Paul Stanley - MBDA
Industry
David Hansell - MSI Defence Systems
Dr Sandy Wilson – General Dynamics UK
Andy Wilkins – Rolls Royce
Paul Everitt - ADS
Rob Lingham - BAE Systems
Mark Rowson - Thales UK
Government
Chris Baker - UKTI DSO
Nick Ayling – Cabinet Office
Tim McDonnell – MOD
David Foskett – BIS
Richard Johnson – FCO
Secretariat
Barbara Hook – UKTI DSO

Introduction
1. Richard Paniguian opened the meeting. Sir Kevin Tebbit had stepped down as DSF Export sub group Co Chair and the industry members of the DSF Executive Group had elected Alan Garwood to take on the Co-Chair role. As Alan was currently travelling overseas, Richard welcomed Paul Stanley, who had agreed to deputise at this meeting as the Industry Co-Chair. Richard thanked Sir Kevin Tebbit in his absence for his valuable contribution during his time as Co-Chair.

Minutes of the last Meeting and Review of Terms of Reference
2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. A light touch review was proposed of the sub group Terms of Reference, including the blend of industry membership. HMG representation on the sub group would also be considered. The group should focus on clear outcomes and delivery of a work plan, in order to be the provider of advice to HMG, taking forward exportability, through life support, and the emerging exports agenda. The group agreed that its clear intent over the coming year would be to deliver actions on these issues to advance support for exports.

Report on the Exportability Seminar held on 28 February
3. MOD would promote exports through implementing changes in its acquisition process that built in the consideration of exportability. Industry would help to make the case for this by providing the empirical evidence of the benefit to MOD. MOD have the action to ensure that consideration of exportability is contained in the command plans and that a representative of the FLCs engages with the sub group.
Through Life Support

4. DSO was grateful to ADS for helping to run a workshop on this topic and the views captured had been distilled in a draft paper, which aimed to identify and spread best practice and ideas to further improve TLS. The Co Chairs would revise the paper based on the contributions that had been received.

Any Other Business & Date of Next Meeting

5. No other items of business were raised. The Secretariat would consult members on a suitable date for the next meeting, ideally in April.

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30 March 2013