Dear [Name],

FOI 14-0394

Thank you for your e-mail to myself on the 4th March 2014 in which you requested:

"I would like to know the dates that official overseas delegations were invited to the DSEi 2013 arms fair. I am not asking for the countries to be named.

Please provide, for each unnamed country:
- the date that the invitation for that country was approved by a Minister
- the date that the invitation was made to that country
- whether the invitation was accepted or declined
- the date that the invitation was accepted or declined
- whether or not a delegation from that country attended DSEi 2013."

Please find attached the list that we have put together to meet your request.

As our invitations are issued to individuals, each country, territory or organisation may receive more than one invitation. In order to add a degree of sense about whether or not an invitation has been accepted or not I have listed each invitation on its own line. I have used the date the invitation was sent from the DSO office as the date the invitation was made to the country.

I must point out that the dates are extracted from our central list and may not necessarily be exact. We have no requirement to capture the exact dates, we merely need to know whether invitations have been sent and accepted/declined etc to assist us with the running of the show. To establish the exact dates would exceed the cost limit of £600 provided under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act ("the Act"). 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. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require that we ask all desks and overseas staff to see if they have kept a record of the dates (which may never have been recorded).
We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, this part of your request will not be processed further.

With regards to the Accepted/Declined field, you should also be aware that when an individual declines an invitation, they may choose to send along a substitute. In this case I have regarded these as a “Decline” as the invited individual would not be attending. This explains why our invitations can be recorded as “Declined” but the country attended the exhibition.

For the dates of invitation Accepted/Declined these are shown as "Not recorded" as they are not routinely recorded as we have no requirement to know when an invitation was accepted or declined, we merely need to know if it has or hasn’t. Again to try and establish exact dates would exceed the cost limit contained in section 12 of the Act, for the reasons set out above.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit (FOI.Requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wimslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

UKTI Defence & Security Organisation
Policy & Resources Secretariat

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