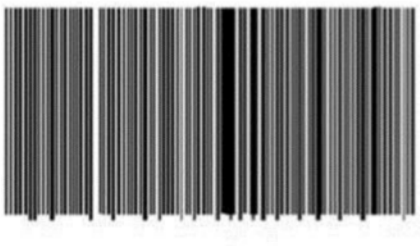
Prepared for OPEN publication in relation to the Independent Inquiry Relating to Afghanistan



RMP-221-0007046-A

Morris, Rob Col (NORTHMOOR TEAM-HQ-AH)

From: SofS-COS (Biggar, Graeme SCS)
Sent: 23 February 2016 10:31
To: Army PM-PolComSO1 (McKay, David Mr)
Subject: RE: 20160223-NORTHMOOR-Foresnic IS Procurement Ministerial Sign Off

Categories: NORTHMOOR

Got it. Will deal.
Graeme

From: Army PM-PolComSO1 (McKay, David Mr)
Sent: 23 February 2016 09:41
To: SofS-COS (Biggar, Graeme SCS)
Subject: 20160223-NORTHMOOR-Foresnic IS Procurement Ministerial Sign Off

Dear Graeme,

Issue

We have met an unexpected bump in the road regarding our procurement of the necessary [redacted] forensic IT in support of Op NORTHMOOR, and I was wondering whether SofS's office might provide some assistance in engaging with the Minister for the Cabinet Office in order to gain his approval for the procurement.

Background

Op NORTHMOOR has a requirement for a stand alone, scientific system used to process and review forensic electronic/digital evidence in accordance with UK ACPO guidelines. There is no facility within the UK or Europe which could be used for an investigation of this size, complexity or [redacted] and is therefore a unique requirement. Since 2010, all government IS procurement over £1m has required Cabinet Office approval. Although we have successfully negotiated all the Cabinet Office hurdles and undertaken a competitive tender, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Mr Hancock, has declined to give final approval. He has expressed concern over the £7.58m cost over two years. Cabinet Office officials have since advised his private office that costs have been cut by £1.5m as a result of competitive tendering and the involvement of the Government Digital Service. They have now advised us that further details behind the rationale for the requirement is needed to persuade the Mr Hancock.

Mr Hancock has been advised of the general rationale for Op NORTHMOOR in the Cabinet Office Submission. Given the senior level of engagement that is now taking place in relation to Op NORTHMOOR, would it be appropriate / possible for SofS to engage with Mr Hancock in order to indicate the necessity of the requirement so that we might avoid providing further detail through officials?

I'd be grateful for any advice or guidance.

Kind regards

David McKay
SO1 Policy & Comms | HQ Provost Marshal (Army)
Ramillies Building, Marlborough Lines, Monxton Road, Andover SP11 8HJ
Contact details [redacted]

From: IIA723 [Contact Details]
Sent: 22 February 2016 10:05
To: Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj)
Cc: Army PM-DPM-FD (Parkes, Nadine Col); Spec Ops RMP-RHQ-CO (Forsythe, Belinda Lt Col)
Subject: Re: FW: Ministerial Submission: HMG2736: MoD – Royal Military Police Project NORTHMOOR

Thanks - yes I've already been telling them that...

If we can add any meat to the rationale that will help.
Thanks

IIA723

IIA723
Senior Technology Advisor | Standards Assurance Service | Government Digital Service
Contact Details
Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, Holborn, WC2B 6NH

On 22 February 2016 at 09:47, Spec Ops RMP-SPCB-OC (Hacker, Philip Maj) <Contact Details> wrote:

IIA723

I have sent this request to the directorate for answers to the e-mail below. Regarding the IS piece we have made a £1.5m saving due to advances in technology and because we are buying a large amount of technology so received a discount. The costs has been spread over two FY so that we still receive this discount otherwise the cost will increase. This was agreed by DRes.

Regards

Phil

Maj PAL Hacker | Officer Commanding, Service Police Crime Bureau, Specialist Operations Regiment, Royal Military Police, Bassett Wislon Building (PP24), Southwick Park, Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 6EJ.

Contact details

From: IIA755 <Contact Details>
Date: 18 February 2016 at 17:00:48 GMT
To: Cabinet Office Controls Mailbox <Contact Details>
Cc: PS Matthew Hancock Mailbox <Contact Details>, Chief Executive of the Civil Service <Contact Details>, IIA756 <Contact Details>, GDS IIA757 <Contact Details>, GDS approvals <Contact Details>, IIA729 <Contact Details>, IIA723 <Contact Details>, IIA753 <Contact Details>, Contact Details, Contact Details, IIA761 <Contact Details>
Subject: Re: Ministerial Submission: HMG2736: MoD – Royal Military Police Project NORTHMOOR

Name Given IIA723

MCO is not currently content to sign this off. He feels that the costs for this project are extremely high. He would like to know what the total cost of this operation is and what is the plan to minimise costs?

Can you please provide us with further information

Thanks

IIA755

IIA755 | Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General | Contact Details

On 10 February 2016 at 17:04, Cabinet Office Controls Mailbox <Contact Details> wrote:

Dear IIA755

Please find attached a submission for MCO approval.

I would be grateful for a response by **Tuesday February 22.**

The Royal Military Police (RMP) are requesting approval to spend £7.58m over 2 years in order to obtain an independent, standalone scientific system to process and review forensic electronic/digital evidence in relation to ongoing investigation into allegations of mistreatment of Afghan detainees.

We recommend approval of the FBC with the following conditions:

- The provisioned environment (location and hardware) remains in scope for future use as a secure hosting location post investigation.

Lee Day & Co Solicitors have sent the MOD pre-action protocol letters relating to 80 of the Afghan complainants. To meet the standards expected by the Courts, the investigation requires a dedicated facility and specialist IT to store and examine significant amounts of electronic data and protectively marked material including [redacted] a certain classification.

There is also a requirement for the provision of this capability in order the Service Police to be able to meet their statutory obligations to undertake European Convention of Human Rights compliant [redacted] of a certain classification complex investigation.

This has been approved by Major General Semple, Director Information 2*. It was approved by the Info Superiority Decision Board at Army Headquarters and Director Resources (Army) approved the funding and funding strategy.

GDS view:

The system is designed in accordance with the Digital by Default Service Standard. This control should proceed as It is being designed around the needs of the service user (Service Police), will have a user feedback mechanism once tested and in place. A multi-disciplinary team consisting of private sector and military was pulled together in the Alpha phase where a proof of concept was run. The private sector developer has used agile and completed 7 iterations to achieve a baseline architecture.

Costs have fall as a result GDS engagement with the project team by approximately £1.5m (OBC compared to FBC).

Kind regards,

[redacted] IIA762

Service Quality & Controls
Civil Service Group
Cabinet Office | 1 Horse Guards Road | London SW1A 2HQ
E: [redacted] Contact Details

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