

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP  
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry  
Department of Trade and Industry  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

11th April 2007

Dear Secretary of State,

**Request for information: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Export Control Act 2002 and EDO MBM Technology Ltd**

I am writing to ask you for information about licenses issued to EDO MBM Technology Ltd, Emblem House, Home Farm Business Park, Home Farm Road, Brighton, BN1 9HU for export to Israel under the terms of the Export Control Act 2002. This request also applies to related EDO group companies including EDO (UK) Ltd, MBM Flexible Circuits and EDO Rugged Systems Ltd. Please provide information relating to the period 2002-present day.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with copies of the following documentation either electronically or by means of hard copies:

Standard Individual Export Licences (SIELs)

- Details of Export Licence applications for SIELs by EDO MBM Technology (and related group companies) for the export of components to Israel, which were authorised and/or refused and details of the goods covered.

Standard Individual Export Licences - Incorporation (SIELs Incorporation).

- Details of Export Licence applications for Incorporation by EDO MBM Technology to countries, such as the United States of America for incorporation into military goods whose final end-use destination is Israel which were authorised and/or refused and details of the goods covered.

Open Individual Export Licences (OIELs)

- Details of Export Licence applications for OIELs by EDO MBM Technology to Israel, which were authorised and/or refused and details of the goods covered.
- Details of Export Licence applications for OIELs by EDO MBM Technology to countries, such as the United States of America for incorporation into military goods whose final end-use destination is Israel, which were authorised and/or refused and details of the goods covered.

## Open General Export Licenses

- Details of any notifications by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for any use of Open General Export Licenses for the purpose of demonstrating military goods to the government of Israel.
- Details of any notifications by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for any use of Open General Export Licenses for the export of military goods which have been imported into the UK for repair or replacement under warranty to the government of Israel.
- Details of any notifications by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for any use of Open General Export Licenses for the export of technology for military goods to the government of Israel.
- Details of any notifications by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for any use of Open General Export Licenses for the export of military goods, provision of technical assistance, and transfer of software and technology to the government of Israel in support of UK Government Defence Contracts.
- Records that show which, if any, Open General Export Licenses were granted by the Export Control Organisation; which are still current and if any were withdrawn following the transposition of EC Regulation 1236/2005.

## Standard and Open Individual Trade Control Export Licenses

- Applications made by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for a Standard Individual Trade Control Export Licence for exports to the government of Israel, including details of the military goods covered by each application, and details of supplier countries.
- Applications made by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for any Open Individual Trade Control Export Licences for export to the government of Israel, including details of the military goods covered by each application, and details of supplier countries.
- Records that show which, if any, Standard and Open Individual Trade Control Export License applications were granted by the Export Control Organisation; which are still current and if any were withdrawn following the transposition of EC Regulation 1236/2005.

## Open General Trade Control Licences

- Notifications made by EDO MBM Technology to the Export Control Organisation for the use of Open General Trade Control Licences for the transfer of military and paramilitary goods on the UK Military List to Israel, including details of the military and paramilitary goods covered by each application and the supplier countries.
- Records that show which, if any, Open General Trade Control License applications were granted by the Export Control Organisation; which are still current and if any were withdrawn following the transposition of EC Regulation 1236/2005.

## Other

- Any other documents held within the DTI that relate to the sale or transfer of controlled goods manufactured by EDO MBM Technology Ltd for use by Israeli military or security forces.

## Compliance visits

Details of compliance visits made by Export Control Organisation staff to EDO MBM Technology.

Please note that in using the term 'the government of Israel' above, I refer to all departments, including the armed forces.

There is a balance between the need to protect the commercial interests of EDO MBM Technology and the need to protect civil rights and allow public access to information about the activities of companies based in the UK. I consider that it is in the public interest to release the documents I have requested in order to help shed light on whether companies based in the UK are potentially arming a government that is illegally occupying another country, according to the United Nations.

I do not consider these documents to be exempt from release under Freedom of Information legislation, but if you disagree with my view I should be grateful if you would advise me in detail of your grounds for claiming exemption.

If you believe that exemption is required on the grounds of national security I should be grateful if you would provide me with a copy of the relevant ministerial exemption certificate.

If you decide to release documents in part with certain sections withheld, please indicate clearly where material has been withheld and on what grounds. In the case of paper copies of documents, I should be grateful if you would do this by blacking out, rather than whiting out, the relevant sections.

I should point out that my understanding of Government guidance on the use of the public interest test is that the working assumption, when the test is applied, should be to withhold specific advice but to release background information. Should you wish to apply a public interest test to the release of any of these documents and decide to withhold release, I should be grateful if you would provide me with any non-exempt portions of such documents, together with all relevant background information.

I do not anticipate that the costs of locating this information will exceed the £600 payment threshold, but if you believe they will, I should be grateful if you would contact me and advise me of the expected costs.

Thank you very much in anticipation of your assistance, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.