

## Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

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**From:** fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC)  
**Sent:** October 16, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** 'ziann.lum@huffpost.com'  
**Subject:** Correction, please

Hi Zi-Ann,

Saw your story regarding contract disclosure and have very serious concerns that it doesn't accurately portray the facts.

Your first two lines are in the present tense and indicate that the government continues to withhold the contracts in question.

In fact, as was pointed out in the response the Department provided to you:

"However, the procurement environment has since evolved [since the time that memo was written]. .... In line with this new reality, and consistent with our commitment to transparency, we are now disclosing the majority of our COVID-19 contracting information on our [web page](#) as well as through normal proactive disclosure requirements. In limited cases, certain contract details cannot be disclosed, for example to protect commercial confidentiality of suppliers. "

The website mentioned about is this one: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/comm/aic-scr/contrats-contracts-eng.html>

On it, you will see that, of the 244 COVID-19 response related contracts we have signed, the names of only 32 are being withheld in order to protect supply chains. In all but two of those cases, the commodity and contract value are disclosed.

I'm not going to provide links to all of the individual entries, but these contracts have been proactively disclosed on the open government website. The vast majority are listed under PHAC as it is the agency that requested them.

I must also take issue with referring to Mr. McKinnon's one response as "vague." Without debating the validity of editorializing about that one response, this is an issue the Minister and the Deputy Minister have spoken to a number of times before in interviews, committee hearings, and in the House. We have been very clear about this issue for months.

Thank you,  
James

James Fitz-Morris  
Directeur des communications / Director of Communications  
Cabinet de la ministre des Services publics et de l'Approvisionnement / Office of the Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
[james.fitz-morris@canada.ca](mailto:james.fitz-morris@canada.ca)  
Cell : 613-698-2387