

Freedom of Information Act - Decision Notice

Applicant: Mr T Behr **No of Decisions for this Request: 1** **Request Ref: 394/506**

Date of Decision: 08/09/10 **Disclosure Type: Part Disclosure**

Exemptions Applied

Section 43: Commercial interests

Comments on Decision

Information detailing the expenditure and distribution of income relating to the Speed Choice scheme will not be disclosed.

It is likely that the service provision of driver education in connection to safety camera enforcement in Avon and Somerset will be subject to procurement and tendering in the next financial year. It is expected that Speed Choice will submit a tender for consideration.

Based on these grounds it is considered that details of Speed Choice expenditure constitutes commercially sensitive information. Making this information publicly accessible would place Speed Choice at a disadvantage in the procurement process, by allowing competitors access to financial information that would form part of any future bid.

In addition, specific details regarding the distribution of income would allow the recipient to deduce the expenditure.

Speed Choice provides driver education on behalf of the local highway authorities across Avon and Somerset. The scheme forms an important part in achieving the casualty reduction targets for which local government is committed towards, and thus there is a strong public interest in Speed Choice being able to submit a competitive tender for future speed awareness programmes. Speed Choice also provides a revenue stream for local authorities in Avon and Somerset, allowing surplus funds to be spent on other casualty reduction initiatives.

To quote the Freedom of Information Act:

43 (2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

END