

Our Ref: FOI10956F

Date: 31 July 2014

FAO Emma Smith

Email: request-216290-b90582f7@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Emma

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for information

I refer to your request for information made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Request

I was wondering if you could how much Birmingham City Council spent on purchasing or replacing glass windows during the period of 1 January 2012 and 12 June 2014 inclusive. The name of the company that supplies glass windows to the council

Also during any period of the timeframe mentioned above did Birmingham City Council source glass windows from any company that are located outside the UK; If so the reason for same eg; Specialist type of windows were needed etc

Response

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for data.

Birmingham City Council has deferred all repair and maintenance issues for Council assets to Acivico Ltd. Acivico is a wholly owned company responsible for delivering Repairs and Maintenance contracts on behalf of the City.

We also contract with a group of companies under the Constructing West Midlands banner for Housing as well as a Sheltered Workshop employing people with disabilities who manufacture and sell double UPVC double glazed units to both Birmingham City Council and private clients.

Acivico have advised that they hold several contracts designed to cover repair and maintenance issues as a whole. They do not procure contracts purely for the replacement of glass windows. We are therefore unable to comment about the sourcing of glass from any company but the overall Repairs and Maintenance Contract includes the following:

Funds Center		Invoice Spend	No. of PO Invoices
Revenue	MORRISON PLC	4,027,059.43	33
Revenue	P.H.JONES LTD	6,939,188.43	74
Revenue	MEARS LTD	42,609,607.36	572
Revenue	WILLMOTT DIXON PARTNERSHIPS LTD	100,281,222.19	447

Economy Directorate
Development & Culture
1 Lancaster Circus
Birmingham
B4 7DJ

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Capital	MORRISON PLC	6,150,600.13	16
Capital	P.H.JONES LTD	13,135,174.23	42
Capital	MEARS LTD	10,258,165.41	156
Capital	WILLMOTT DIXON PARTNERSHIPS LTD	5,952,564.62	121
		£189,353,581.80	1,461

As per the table above, Acivico have advised they have processed 1461 invoices for repair and maintenance during the period 1st January 2012 and 12 June 2014 inclusive, with a total value in excess of £189m. In order to determine if any element of those invoices relate to purchasing or replacing glass windows each transaction would have to be analysed and any information that is found could then be extracted.

Under s12 of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request where it estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the "appropriate limit". In estimating the cost of complying with this request we are entitled to take into account the costs reasonably expected to incur in relation to the determining whether the information is held and extracting that information into a re-useable format.

Acivico have estimated that it would take 2 members of staff a minimum of 96 hours in order to comply with your request.

Where it is estimated that that it would take more than 18 hours of staff time or would exceed the costs limit of £450, a public authority is not required to provide a response. Birmingham City Council will not therefore be able to answer this request for data.

Birmingham City Council has a duty to advise and assist you with your request and therefore it is recommended that you scale down the period of your request to enable the transactions to be analysed within the appropriate limits and if any data is found, to be extracted.

Whilst you are not obliged to provide the information it is sometimes easier to provide a reason for the request which may help us to narrow down our search in order to provide with some information rather than nothing. If you would like to consider this then please let me know.

Review of Response

If you are not satisfied with the way this response has been handled you may ask for an internal review. To do this, please contact Birmingham City Council's central FOI Team at this address:

Corporate DP/FOI Team

Performance and Information (WS)

PO Box 16366

Birmingham

B2 2YY

Tel: 0121 303 4876

email: foi.mailbox@birmingham.gov.uk

If subsequently you are not satisfied with the Council's decision you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545745
Web Address: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Julie Shanahan
Professional Support Advisor

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