

Subject: Freedom of Information request - potential conflict of interest in 2015 award of contract to NEPRO LTD
Date: 21st March 2017

FOIA REQUEST

Dear North Eastern Purchasing Organisation,

I note from your previous information disclosure (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/request_for_documentation_and_in#incoming-949353) that the procurement officer listed as responsible for the 2015 contract was one Adam Smith, previously employed as a Service Analyst with the winning bidder, NEPRO Limited.

- 1) Can the authority tell me if there was a conflict of interest declaration made in this case, and provide it in that case?
- 2) Can the authority provide information on its conflict of interest rules?

Yours faithfully,
Arthur Burden

FOIA RESPONSE

Dear Mr Burden,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received 21st March 2017. Due to the nature of the questions raised, and the perceived overlap with various elements, the response has been formulated using a combination of attachments and narrative as found below/attached.

- 1) No conflict of interest was deemed to be relevant in this case. Adam Smith joined NEPO in September 2014 and the resulting contract for the procurement in which he was involved commenced December 2015. It should also be noted, Adam Smith was the procurement officer supporting the operational aspects of the procurement process for a senior officer and formed part of a large stakeholder working group including a number of NEPO Member Authorities and NEPO Associate Member Authorities.
- 2) As a matter of course conflict of interest documents are signed by each member of the working group and attached for your reference [NEPO503 - Pecuniary Interest Form (Adam Smith)] is the pecuniary interest form relevant to Adam Smith for the award of the above referenced contract.

RIGHT TO REVIEW

You may apply to the Associate Director, Guildhall, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13AF, for an internal review of the decision. This will be a fresh consideration of your request by a more senior officer. If you wish to request a review must do this in writing within 40 days of receipt of this letter.

Following the internal review if you are still unhappy you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner as specified below.

You may apply under Section 50 of the Act to the Information Commissioner at the address given below

Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

For a decision whether, in any specified respect, a request for information made by you to the Department/office has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Part 1 of the Act.

The Information Commissioner shall consider the matter fully and make a fresh decision.

Yours Sincerely
North East Procurement Organisation Governance Team.