



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Freedom of Information Team
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21 January 2019

Mr Michael Carroll-Owen
request-623137-c1eb4738@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: FOI2019/12319

Dear Mr Carroll-Owen,

Thank you for your email of 25 November in which you made the following request for information:

I would like to request all paperwork for any grants provided to the National Youth Agency in the Year of 2019.

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). I confirm that we hold information within the scope of your request. However, I have withheld the information under section 43(2) (commercial interests) of the Act.

Section 43 applies to information where its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation including the public authority holding it. Section 43 is a 'qualified exemption' which requires us to carry out a public interest test to determine whether the balance of interest lies in releasing or withholding the information.

Arguments in favour of disclosing the information

There is a general public interest for the government to be open and transparent. Transparency helps make government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust. This includes how the government interacts with other government departments or executive bodies and agencies as well as external stakeholders.

There is also a public interest in the expenditure of public money. Ensuring that public money is not wasted is of great public interest. The provision of some of this paperwork would provide genuine transparency on the expenditure of public money by showing what exactly this money is to be spent on and how it will be spent.

Arguments in favour maintaining the exemption

Release of the information will cause the National Youth Agency (NYA) and its commercial partners significant prejudice and harm. The work being done through the grant has been costed using elements of their economic costing and development model, and the release of any component of that model would jeopardise their long-term viability.



The information, if disclosed, could provide competing organisations that intend to bid for grant funding with an undue advantage. This would be detrimental to the NYA's interests and offers no obvious benefit to the public.

It is important that organisations such as NYA can trust government departments to treat their market-sensitive information confidentially. Disclosure of the information requested could undermine confidence in DCMS and deter organisations from sharing this type of information in the future for fear their commercially sensitive information will be shared publically. This is not in the public interest.

Taking into account all the circumstances of this case, I have concluded the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

We also hold a copy of the previous financial year's accounts for due diligence purposes. However this has been withheld under section 21 of the Act, which applies to information which is already accessible by other means. A copy can be found here:

<https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details?regid=1035804&subid=0>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Complaints and comments

As is customary in our replies, I should explain that if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information, and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you, please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this response to: foi@culture.gov.uk. You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning an investigation.