Dear Beverley Knight,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 8 April 2021.

You asked for:

“I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contract below.

Career Transition Service - Awarded:

https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/afbdcd27-eb60-4637-8d89-8cac41cbe55c

The details we require are:

• Suppliers who applied for inclusion on each framework/contract and were successful & not successful at the PQQ & ITT stages
• Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date
• Start date & duration of contract/framework
• Has an extension been agreed, if so, for how long?
• Will the framework(s)/contract(s) be up for renewal, if so when?
• Could you provide the tender documents for this contract?
• Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?”

DWP Response

We can confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking.

• Suppliers who applied for inclusion on each framework/contract and were successful & not successful at the PQQ & ITT stages

We can confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking.

However, the information you have requested is commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt from release under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act.
Section 43 exempts information which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. It protects not only the commercial interests of third parties but also the commercial interests of the Department. It is intended to protect the ability of a public authority like DWP to obtain goods or services on the best possible commercial terms and to protect the legitimate commercial interests of its suppliers. The information you seek falls into this category.

As required by the FoI Act the use of this exemption requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be assessed. Generally speaking, there is a public interest in the disclosure of commercial information to ensure transparency in the accountability of public funds and to show that public money is being used effectively. Conversely, there is a public interest in ensuring that disclosure does not compromise an existing competitive market environment or the Department’s ability to secure best value for money for the taxpayer. On balance I am satisfied that, in this instance, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

• **Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date**

The total actual spend as at 15/04/2021 is £20,069 inclusive of VAT (£16,725 exclusive of VAT)

• **Start date & duration of contract/framework**

We can confirm that the Department holds this information. However, the information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

However, to be helpful you can find the information you seek at

https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/afbdcfd27-eb60-4637-8d89-8cac41cbe55c

https://www.espo.org/strategic-hr-services-3s-17.html

• **Has an extension been agreed, if so, for how long?**

No extension

• **Will the framework(s)/contract(s) be up for renewal, if so when?**

The current DWP contract ends 31 March 2022 and we will determine future requirements before this date, but at present, commercial decisions have not been agreed.

• **Could you provide the tender documents for this contract?**

The following Tender documents are attached:

  • CTS – ITT (ESPO Part A) – Final

Please note the CTS – ITT (ESPO Part A) – Final document contains redacted information for the following reasons:

We are unable to provide you with the information requested as it constitutes personal data of someone other than yourself and as such, it is being withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.
Section 40(2) exempts information in response to a request if it is personal data belonging to an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation. In this case the condition contained in section 40(3A)(a) applies - that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, specifically that “Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner...”.

We do not consider that disclosing this information is necessary or justified in order to satisfy your information request and the requirements of the FoI Act. In relation to this request, we consider that there is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Personal data are subject to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

• Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?

Ian Randall (SCS2).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Website: ICO Contact Information or telephone 0303 123 1113.