



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

By Email Only
request-678262-
9ed7d240@whatdotheyknow.com

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

T:

Your ref:
Our ref: C-523620

Date: 17th August 2020

Dear Sam Reed

Your Freedom of Information request response

Thank you for your email received 17th July 2020 in which you requested the following information:

“Please can you provide the total spend on accessibility testing, accessibility audits and disabled user testing carried out within your department broken down by supplier for the last three years.

Please can you also provide a breakdown of all spend for the last three years with the following organisations:

AbilityNet
Dig Inclusion Ltd
Digital Accessibility Centre Limited (DAC)
React Accessibility
Recite Me Ltd
Test Partners Ltd
TetraLogical
The Accessible Digital Documents Company Ltd
Shaw Trust Accessibility Services
Zimo Accessibility
Open Inclusion
Hassell Inclusion
SimpleUsability
Axaccessibility Ltd
Hex Productions

On track to meet your deadline?

Visit www.gov.uk/charity-commission for help
on filing your annual return and accounts

t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

AccessEquals
Able AI”

The above request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the Commission holds the information but considers it exempt from disclosure under s43(2)

Section 43(2)

S43(2) exempts information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

The s43 exemptions are qualified exemptions, subject to the public interest test. Please see the outcome of the test we have undertaken.

Arguments for

- There is public interest in releasing information relating to the Commissions spend as this provides transparency on the Commissions use of public money.

Arguments against

- Disclosure of the requested information regarding the specific spend relating to specific contractors would enable competitors to be privy to commercially sensitive information and could potentially be used in a way that would be likely to prejudice the interests of the specific contractors if identified.
- Disclosure would weaken the specific contractors negotiating position if information about the specific spend regarding a specific contractor was disclosed in the public domain.

Outcome

Whilst the Commission would wish to be as transparent as possible regarding its spend to disclose specific spends relating to specific contractors would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of those specific contractors identified .

As such in this instance the Commission considers that in balancing the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in withholding the information, it is the Commission

view that in this instance the greater public interest lies in not disclosing the information requested.

This completes your Freedom of Information request.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jan Provost (Information Rights and Complaints Manager)

If you think our decision is wrong, you can ask for it to be reviewed. Such requests should be submitted within two months of the date of our response and should be addressed to the Charity Commission at PO Box 211, Bootle, L20 7YX (email: RIGA@charitycommission.gov.uk). More information about our Freedom of Information Act review service can be found on the following link to our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission/about/complaints-procedure>.

If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our review procedure. The ICO can be contacted at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (email: casework@ico.org.uk).