

FAO Phil Spring
request-341013-403cdf88@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 19th July 2016
Our ref: RFI – 160664
Your ref:

Dear Mr Spring,

Freedom of Information Act 2000
Your Request for Information concerning Buying Goods and Services.

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on the 21st June 2016 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to buying goods and services.

Please see response below you were seeking to the following question(s).

Question 1

The figures should cover (unless stated) the period 1st April 2015 to the 31st March 2016.

The Council's net revenue budget?

Response

The Council's net revenue budget for 2015/16 was £228,820,336.

Question 2

Total value of Goods and Services acquired by the council from third party suppliers?

Response

The Council's total spend with third party suppliers in 2015/16 was £307,478,517.

Question 3

Total number of Contracts held by the council as 31st March 2016.

Response

The attached document titled 'Contracts Register 1st April 2016' provides details of the information you have requested. The contract titles, description, periods, re-tender dates, contract values and contacts are included in the contract register.

The current contract register can be found on the Corporate Procurement Internet page:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=423>

Question 4

Total value of Goods and Services acquired by the council from third party suppliers.

Response

The Council's total spend with third party suppliers in 2015/16 was £307,478,517.

Question 5

Cost of procurement management (Total cost of procurement function (staff salaries, on-costs, share of central recharges, dedicated system costs, contracted third party support costs) for a given period).

Response

The total cost of the Corporate Procurement function in 2015/16 was £561,876.

Question 6

Total value of goods and services acquired from third party suppliers by the council that were acquired under the terms of a contract whether arranged by the Council independently or by a collaboration with another Council or through participation in a Contract provided through a Framework.

Response

The Council is currently undertaking a spend analysis exercise to identify the value of contracted spend with our third party suppliers in the 2015/16 financial year.

As a result the Council does not currently hold this information, however the Council's contract register provides an estimated value of spend for each contract arranged by the Corporate Procurement department.

Question 7

The total number of contract managers named on the council contract register as at 31 March 2016.

Response

The attached document titled 'Contracts Register 1st April 2016' provides details of the information you have requested. The contract titles, description, periods, re-tender dates, contract values and contacts are included in the contract register.

The current contract register can be found on the Corporate Procurement Internet page:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=423>

Question 8

Total Number of Contracts awarded by the Council.

Response

The attached document titled 'Contracts Register 1st April 2016' provides details of the information you have requested. The contract titles, description, periods, re-tender dates, contract values and contacts are included in the contract register.

The current contract register can be found on the Corporate Procurement Internet page:

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Question 9

The total number of invoices for goods and services paid by the council during the period 1st April 2015 to the 31st March 2016 whether or not the supplier was contracted to the council or the holder of a framework contract.

Response

A total of 140,734 invoices were processed in the 2015/16 financial year.

Question 10

The total value of third party spend acquired by electronic orders (i.e. over the internet, it does not include procurement cards, telephone or fax orders).

Response

The information you request on third party spend acquired by electronic orders is not held in a format that would allow the council to provide it without exceeding the fees limit.

The Freedom of Information Act does not require a local authority to supply information when the cost of providing this exceeds the statutory fees limit of £450. This limit covers approximately 2 ½ days of work in locating and providing information.

Question 11

The total value of Goods and Services spent with suppliers who are defined as a Small and Medium Enterprise according to the DfTI definition.

Response

The Council's total third party spend with known Small and Medium Enterprises in the 2015/16 financial year was £98,401,850.

Question 12

The total number of contracts that reached their termination date and were renewed by extension without retendering.

Response

The attached document titled 'Contracts Register 1st April 2016' provides details of the information you have requested. The contract titles, description, periods, re-tender dates, contract values and contacts are included in the contract register.

The current contract register can be found on the Corporate Procurement Internet page:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=423>

Question 13

Total number of contract awards by the council that have been challenged by an unsuccessful tenderer.

Response

One contract award was challenged by an unsuccessful tenderer in the 2015/16 financial year.

Question 14

The total number of contracts held by the council as at the 31st March 2016 with on-going improvement clauses (improved performance over the life of the contract or reduced pricing).

Response

The information you request on the total number of contracts held by the Council with on-going improvement clauses is not held in a format that would allow the council to provide it without exceeding the fees limit.

The Freedom of Information Act does not require a local authority to supply information when the cost of providing this exceeds the statutory fees limit of £450. This limit covers approximately 2 ½ days of work in locating and providing information.

I hope this is satisfactory. If, however, you are dissatisfied with our response to your request for information, you may request a further review. This will be removed from the Directorate and coordinated by the Council's Information Manager. A request for further review should be addressed to the Information Manager, PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, SR2 7DN.

If this fails to resolve your concerns then you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours sincerely

Paul Davies
Head of Assurance, Procurement and Projects