



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI 33131 & IR 37145

16 October 2019

Dear S Ali

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request (FOI 33131) received on 8th September 2019 and also the internal review request (IR 37145) that was received on 9 October 2019.

Within your FOI request (FOI 33131) you asked:

1. Please can you provide the now 'expired' contract the DWP held with CHDA, including the extension agreement. As you have a new contract and the previous contract no longer has commercially sensitive information.

2. As a secondary minor request, please can you provide the current contract.

As a former employee, please note that several US companies do actually talk to one another and a lot of the current CHDA management were part of ATOS or return to ATOS/similar companies (corporate espionage), the extent of meagre commercial sensitivity that existed, is significantly reduced and the last tendering process has concluded with a poor outcome for the UK. Information held by the DWP that should have been provided in previous requests, should now be provided given statutory processes and that the DWP should ultimately serve the public of United Kingdom not Maximus Inc.

Many thanks, please use common sense (unsigned version) when responding and provide information to this address, electronically (as it is the format the information is in), to save time. Estimated time to do the above is 2 hours although the responses for any consultations will extend the work whilst only serving to delay/prevent disclosure.

DWP Response:

I can confirm the Department holds some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, as your request for information on the 'expired' Contract is already accessible to you and is in the public domain, exemption under Section 21 of the FOI Act applies and allows us to direct you to the information.

You can find the information you seek using the links below to Contracts Finder. Please note this version does not contain any Contract Variations agreed since the Contract was awarded.

https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/search/?query=health+disability+assessment&sort_by=relevance®ion=&min_value=&max_value=&publication_date_from=&publication_date_to=&deadline_date_from=&deadline_date_to=&award_date_from=&award_date_to=

I can also confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking in respect of the Contract extension. However, Section 22 of the FOI Act exempts this information from disclosure. This is because the information is intended for publication at a future date.

This exemption requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be weighed in the balance. There is a public interest in information being released as soon as possible. However, I am satisfied that there is a strong public interest in permitting public authorities to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities. I am satisfied that in the instance the Department has a reasonable entitlement to make its own arrangements to do so.

With regard to your internal review request (IR 37145), you asked:

'It has been more than 1 working in relation to your last email and more than 20 working days since request. Please respond or conduct an internal review.'

DWP Response:

Your request (FOI 33131) was received by the Department on 8 September 2019. The FOI Act allows 20 working days from date of receipt of the request in which to respond. We endeavour to answer promptly and no later than the, 20-day deadline, unless the deadline is extended to consider if an exemption applies.

The 20 working day deadline for the request was 4 October 2019. In this instance, DWP failed to respond within the 20 working days and I apologise for the delay.

In reviewing your request, I uphold your complaint as the department did not respond to your request within 20 days.

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

Yours sincerely,

Commercial Directorate FOI Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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@dpw.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745