



Kevin Holland

18 September 2020

By Email: request-686836-6b3d3693@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: FOI2021187

Dear Mr Holland

Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") request

You requested data from us on 24 August 2020. We treated this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This our response to your request.

Your request

- 1) What date did OFQUAL formally award a contract to Public First?
- 2) What was the value of that contract?
- 3) How much has OFQUAL spent with Public First in this financial year (2020/21)?
- 4) If OFQUAL has published the contract on Contracts Finder, as per their legal responsibility under transparency legislation, can I please be provided with the link?
- 5) If the Public First contract has not been published, as per their legal responsibility under transparency legislation, my I please have a copy of the contract redacted as necessary?
- 6) If OFQUAL has not published the contract on Contracts Finder, as per their legal responsibility under transparency legislation, why not? What is the reason for non-publication?

Our response

We have searched our records and can confirm that Ofqual holds some of the information of the type that you have requested.

1. Ofqual has had 3 contractual relationships with Public First:

- a. Public First provided a speaker for our Board Strategy day in February 2020 to talk in general terms about strategy development as part of our routine medium-term planning. The value was £2,750.
- b. In June 2020, Ofqual contracted with Public First to provide urgent strategic support to the planning, monitoring, evaluating and execution of our public confidence strategy, including research work with focus groups. The value was £49,250.
- c. In August 2020, Ofqual contracted with Public First to provide immediate, short-term strategic communications support and advice to Ofqual following the change to centre assessed grades, including media monitoring and planning, and the development of a strategic communications recovery plan. The value was £46,000.

2. See 1 above.

3. The total spent with Public First in the 2020/21 financial year is £95,250.

4. The contract at 1a is below the threshold for publication on contracts finder. The award notices for other two contracts are published here:

Per 1b above:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/8b1bf749-48d8-4a6f-a6fa-590efb73718e?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

Per 1c above:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b349a25c-5abe-4810-b155-dfdc2f97a42a?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

For 5 and 6, please see 4 above.

Internal Review

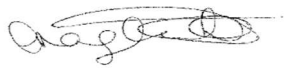
If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled you have the right to request an internal review. You can request an internal review by contacting:-

Naik Sandhu
Legal Practice Manager, Ofqual
(naik.sandhu@ofqual.gov.uk).

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner. Complaints to the Information Commissioner should be sent to:-

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Cathcart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Cathcart
Manager Regulation Development & Impact