

Information Compliance and Disclosure Section
Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB
Tel: 01772 412326
Email: information@lancashire.pnn.police.uk



Angela Snodgrove
Sent via email to: request-323348-bd91c4df@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 18th April 2016

Dear Ms Snodgrove

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION REFERENCE NO: ICDS/FOI/001920/16

Thank you for your request for information received by Lancashire Constabulary on 18/03/2016 which was as follows:

- 1. *May I please see the current contract with CRG Medical Services?***
- 2. *May I also see a list of the suppliers invited to bid on the contract, and a list of the bidders who submitted. If this was a public tender process, may I please know which publications advertised the Invitation to Tender?***
- 3. *May I please see a copy of the Invitation to Tender (Bid)?***

Your request has now been considered and some of the information you are seeking can be found below:

Lancashire Constabulary is unable to provide you with the information in relation to questions 1 and part of question 2 of your request, as the information is exempt by virtue of the listed exemption Section 43 (2) Commercial Interests. Section 43 is a qualified class based exemption which requires me to consider the public interest in disclosure.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

In the interests of transparency disclosing this information would provide a better understanding of how Lancashire Constabulary spends public funds and would highlight any areas in which the force may have mispent. The cost to the local community for the police service that they receive is always the subject of public debate and any information which would aid the accuracy of the debate, would be of positive benefit to all parties. It would also allow for a better understanding and appreciation of the decision-making process undertaken by the Constabulary in tender processes.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The police service has a duty to protect the sensitive commercial information it holds about any private company it has dealings with, including those from whom it receives tenders. Disclosure of full details would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the company involved and affect future procurement for the force as the information has been provided to us in confidence and is of a commercially sensitive nature. As such, disclosure is likely to damage the relationship between Lancashire Constabulary and the parties involved.

Balancing Test

While it is accepted that accountability and demonstrating transparency in the use of public funds is a strong factor favouring disclosure, in this case the requested information concerns the potential disclosure of information about a company's position and the specifics of the tendering process. This would be disadvantageous to their ability to compete fairly and would hamper the authorities' ability to get value for money in the bidding process. As such, on this occasion I feel that the argument to disclose the current contract with CRG and the bidders who submitted is not made out. This letter serves to act as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request as per Section 17 (1) of the Act.

2. May I please know which publications advertised the Invitation to Tender?

The Constabulary advertised the invitation to tender in: Contrax Weekly, Lancashire Evening Telegraph, Lancashire Evening Post, Blackpool Evening Gazette, and Burnley Express.

3. Please see a copy of the invitation to tender document attached to this email.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision, you should write to the Information Assurance Manager, Information Compliance and Disclosure Section, Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB or alternatively send an email to information@lancashire.pnn.police.uk. Details of the Constabulary's Freedom of Information Complaint Procedures can be found attached to this email.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Lancashire Constabulary. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Compliance Team

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