



City of Westminster

Mr Daniel Watson

By email only

CMC - Public Protection and Licensing
Westminster City Council
5 Strand
London
WC2N 5HR
Telephone 020 7641 4513
Email xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

Our ref: 6697333

Your ref:

Date: 16 January 2018

Dear Mr Watson

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am pleased to provide some of the information you have requested. I have detailed below the information.

Within the council, who is the person that is responsible for emergency planning?
Mr P Reeves, Senior Emergency Planning Officer

What systems does the council use when an emergency occurs? E.g. pen and paper, Excel, a system or another method?
The Council uses a software system when responding to emergencies.

If the council uses a software system, which vendor do you use for your emergency planning solution?
The vendor for this software system is Comunis Limited.

What is the current contract term (how long is it and when does it expire)?
The contract term is for 3 years. The contract will end on 1st December 2020.

What is the value of said contract?
See exemption below

If the council does not have a software system, will the council be researching the market (with the intention to buy) over the next 12 ' 18 months?
N/A

If yes, when will be the council be aiming to purchase the system by?
N/A

I can confirm that the remainder of the information you have requested is held by Westminster City Council, by law. However, I'm unable to give this to you.

The council has determined that this information is caught under the exemption in section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43(2) exempts disclosure of information which would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

This is because the requested information is commercially sensitive and disclosure would prejudice their bargaining position and competitive advantage in the marketplace.

The requested information contains market-sensitive information, useful to competitors in the market-place in which the successful bidder operates. Disclosure would, be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both parties – adversely affecting the bargaining position of Comunis Limited and the Council which, in respect of the Council, may result in the less effective use of public money

The council believes that maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in providing disclosure because disclosure of what is deemed sensitive commercial interests, particularly with regard to pricing, would:

- a) undermine the council's ability to attract quality bids;
- b) disclosure information about a particular commercial body that was not common knowledge and would be likely to be used by their competitors in a particular market to gain a competitive advantage; and
- c) give rise to a loss of confidence on the part of the private sector to do business with public authorities, due to the fear that this may lead to disclosure of information that would have a negative impact on their competitiveness

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Under section 17 of the Act this response constitutes a refusal notice in respect of this aspect of your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Management Team
5 Strand
London
WC2N 5HR
xxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45
Fax: 01625 524510
Web: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Commissioning Manager (Community Safety)