



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

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Mr Edward Williams
Via email

Date: **6 October 2020**

Dear Mr Williams

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - 8686926

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 10 August 2020.

Your request was *"1. Provide all the data, in date order if possible, collected and passed to you by Faculty under the contract mentioned above. I am happy to have this in DVD or CD format for Msft Windows or Linux pc.*

2. Provide the specification for the work.

3. Provide all relevant invoices.

4. Provide a list of all those invited to tender for the job."

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q1 & Q3

I can confirm that MHCLG does hold this information but it is exempt under section 43(2) of the FOI Act as disclosing it would be likely to harm the commercial interests of MHCLG and/or Faculty.

For Q1, the data requested could potentially be used to gain an insight into the methodology that Faculty used to deliver this work and would therefore be likely to harm their own commercial interests.

For Q3, detailing key financial information from this contract and Faculty's resourcing for this project (evidenced by the day rates for the different roles on the invoice) would allow third parties to establish the financial and commercial impact or risk to MHCLG and Faculty.

MHCLG wishes to protect its commercial interests and ability to participate in future commercial activity. In order to do this, we are withholding key commercial information which would show the financial position of both parties. MHCLG also has a responsibility to protect information that provides details of Faculty's sources of competitive advantage in competing for contracts, as well as details of Faculty's

performance against its obligations. The disclosure of this information would be to the detriment of present and future business activities for both parties.

Information falling within this exemption must still be provided however unless it is not in the public interest to do so.

MHCLG recognises the need for openness and transparency within Public Authorities and the current interest in this contract.

As part of the Transparency Agenda, MHCLG publish data on all money spent with suppliers over £250 and the total spend on this contract will be published in due course. Therefore in this instance, the public interest in releasing individual invoices, is outweighed by the damage that would be done to MHCLG in obtaining best value for money in its current and future negotiations. Disclosure of the data and invoices would also be prejudicial to Faculty's interests by allowing competitors to gain an advantage when competing for future contracts.

We have therefore decided that, on balance, it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this time.

2. Provide the specification for the work.

The specification for the work is available at the link below in the 'Award Notice' and 'Technical Specifications'.

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b7bbcaf0-22f0-4684-9a22-06667fdd2177?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

4. Provide a list of all those invited to tender for the job."

This contract was not put out for tender by MHCLG. The contract was awarded through the Crown Commercial Service G-Cloud digital marketplace framework. Details on how this contracting mechanism operates can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/g-cloud-buyers-guide>

In line with G-Cloud buying guidance, the opportunity did not require advertising.

Complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with this response, we will review it and report back to you. (This is called an internal review.) If you want us to do this, let us know by return email within two months of receiving this response. You can also ask by letter addressed to:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Knowledge and Information Access Team
4th Floor SE, Fry Building

2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

If you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can ask the independent Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at email address casewoxx@xxx.xxx.xx or use their online form at ico.org.uk/concerns or call them on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

MHCLG FOI Team