



By email: request-339508-
68e2ad7e@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 27 July 2016

Our Ref: FOI 2246/16

Chief Digital & Information Officer Group

Room 2E/08
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Jack

Application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

On 10 June 2016, HMRC received a request from "Daniel" (dealt with under reference FOI 2053/16). This request was:

1. Please could you provide the total revenue that has been procured through RCDTS since December 2015 and a breakdown of this figure (SW,HW,SERVICES) & Vendor
2. Furthermore, we understand that HMRC have between direct contracts with strategic partners. please provide a breakdown percentage of where this total revenue has been distributed. I.e (name A - 30%, Name B - 20%, Name C - 50%)

HMRC sought clarification of this request on 24 June 2016, requesting:

- Please could you clarify the information you are seeking; and
- Define what you mean by the term 'strategic partners'.

On 13 July 2017, in an email to HMRC from a person named "Jack", the terms of the request were clarified as follows:

"By strategic partners, I mean any partners that have signed a direct contract with RCDTS"

It is still not clear what information you are seeking in the first part of your request. However if by the first part of your request you are seeking Annual Accounts information for RCDTS, I can confirm that HMRC do hold this information. However, this information is being withheld under section 22 of the FOIA as the RCDTS Accounts are due to be published in the near future.

Section 22(1) of the FOIA applies if 3 conditions are met:-

- a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date,
- b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

In considering (b) and (c) above a number of factors have been taken into account.

It is reasonable and in the public interest that HMRC reports this information but I take account of the fact that that interest will be met by our planned future publication.

There is a clear public interest in government departments being as open and transparent as possible, so as to increase accountability and inform public debate. However, there is a public interest in allowing public authorities, within reason, to determine their own publication timetable so as to deal with the necessary preparation and administration involved in publication. It is also in the public interest that public authorities can plan publication activity so as to ensure the best use of public resources. Premature disclosure could undermine any relevant pre-publication procedures, such as consultation with or pre-disclosure to particular bodies.

Unfortunately, I am still unable to identify the information you are seeking in the second part of your request and would be grateful if you could clarify your request.

Please also note that under section 8(1)(b) of the FOIA, a public authority is not required to respond to a request unless the name of the applicant is stated.

In the spirit of the Act, we would not normally refuse a request where we suspect a pseudonym has been used. However, to avoid further confusion, when you clarify the terms of your request, please also confirm your full name.

Please send your clarified request (quoting the FOI reference number above) to the HMRC FOI Team, Room 1C/23, 100 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2BQ.

If you prefer, you can submit your request by email using the contact form which can be found on the HMRC website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs>.

If you are not happy with this reply you may request a review by writing to HMRC FOI Team, Room 1C/23, 100 Parliament Street London SW1A 2BQ or email foi.review@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk. You must request a review within 2 months of the date of this letter. It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. The ICO will not usually consider a case unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by HMRC. He can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or by their website at www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Loretta Kiritharan
HM Revenue and Customs
Chief Digital and Information Officer Group