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Mr J Back-Brown
request-9459-5239d053@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 24th August 2009

Tel No. (DDI) 01622 664429

FOI Ref. 2205/2009

Dear Mr Back-Brown,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2205/2009

I write in connection with your request for information received by Kent Police on the 16th March 2009. I am very conscious that this response finds you some time after the statutory time limit permitted to a public authority for dealing with requests has passed and for the lateness of this response I apologise.

I note that you seek access to information relating to details of all Kent Police local and national IT Support Contracts.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Kent Police to locate the information relevant to your request and I can respond as follows:

Please could I be sent details of all Kent Police local and national IT Support Contracts; i.e. Case and Custody systems, Command and Control systems, HR Systems, penalty processing systems, sex offenders register, national firearms system, all document Management Systems, ANPR systems. Along with names of suppliers, length and values of contract (total values and annual) and expiry dates.

Answer: The table overleaf provides details of the systems used by Kent Police. It also includes details of the contractor and the length of the contract with them.

SYSTEM	CONTRACTOR	LENGTH OF CONTRACT
Genesis – (Intel, Case, Custody & Crime)	IPL	February 2013
PNC (owned by NPIA)	Northgate	Renewed on a quarterly basis
	NDI	Expires July 2011
Storm – Incident Management and Control & Command	Steria	Expires end of March 2010
HR Systems	SAP	Throughout the lifecycle of the product
	ROC	3 year contract, ending 2010
Document Management	N/A	N/A
CTO Systems – Penalty processing	Suite of Startraq software: Startraq	National agreement expires 1 st July 2013
	NES & VPFPD: Northgate Information Solutions UK Ltd	Catalyst agreement expires 31 December 2010
Sex Offenders Register (PNC) VISOR	NPIA	Rolling National agreement
INI being replaced by PND	Logica	National agreement
National Firearms Licensing System	NPIA	Rolling National agreement
ANPR	Civica UK Ltd	ANPR Maintenance and Support expires 31 st May 2010

Information regarding the values of the contracts is exempt from release under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act, Commercial Interests. Section 43 is a qualified, class-based exemption, which requires that I consider the public interest, and provide evidence of the harm that may be caused by disclosure. I have included the relevant parts of the exemption and the public interest test and evidence of harm below.

Section 43 (2) Commercial Interests

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Public Interest Test

Considerations Favouring Disclosure

Accountability

Kent Police should be accountable for the decisions they make in relation to systems used and contracts with external companies.

Use of Public Funds/Resources

There is an obvious public interest surrounding accountability and justification of where public funds are being spent.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure

Efficient and Effective Conduct of the Force

Third party companies used by Kent Police may object to information regarding the values of contracts being released, which may cause problems with maintenance contracts and support provided by external contractors, this in turn may have a detrimental effect on the efficient and effective conduct of the force if there is not adequate support for systems used.

Interests of Third Party

It is important to consider the effect of releasing the information on the third party as it relates to commercial and financial information. Releasing this information may give companies a competitive edge over each other thus providing a competitive and unfair advantage. In the worst circumstances, companies would be able to submit tenders for business, pricing their services lower than the existing contractor, even though they are aware that they would not realistically be able to provide the service at that cost. This would clearly not be in the public interest.

Evidence of Harm

The individual value of contracts is commercially sensitive information and release of this information could result in companies gaining a competitive edge over rivals, which will cause damage to the third party.

Also, release of this information would give potential contractors an indication of what kind of figures the Force is prepared to invest in certain areas. This would compromise our own bargaining position when seeking new suppliers to provide services.

Balance Test

In this case, whilst awareness of the value of contracts would ensure that the Kent Police remains accountable, and would provide the community with detailed information making them aware that the force is spending public money wisely, this purpose is already served by regulatory scrutiny by, for example, the Kent Police Authority Audit and Finance Committee.

These arguments are outweighed by the reasons against disclosing this information, which would clearly result in commercial harm to our contractors and the Force, and potentially adversely impact public safety if our systems are not as efficient as they should be.

Therefore, after weighing up competing interests, I have determined that the disclosure of the above information would not be in the public interest. I believe that the harm considerations and the importance of the factors favouring non-disclosure outweigh those considerations favouring disclosure.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police and I hope that the information we have been able to provide is of use to you. A sheet, which summarised your rights, was enclosed with the acknowledgement sent to you and as suggested therein, should you have any further questions concerning your request, please contact me quoting the reference number shown above.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Potten
Freedom of Information Administrator

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will conduct an internal review to investigate the matter and endeavor to reply within 20 working days.

You may lodge your complaint by writing to:

Supt. Paul Gladstone
Head of the Information Compliance Unit
Professional Standards Department
Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road,
Maidstone Kent
ME15 9BZ

Or by e-mailing
freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by Kent Police.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF