



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Digital Data and Technology
Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
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FOI2017/28020

8 December 2017

Dear Mr Paul Smith,

Thank you for your email of 24th November 2017 where you requested the following information:

(1) The names of all the IT Contracting Companies that have provided IT Services and Staff for IT work and related IT Project Management and Program Management work to your organisation in the financial years 2015-16, 2016-17 and up to the end of October 2017 in the current financial year - 2017 to 18. This information is only required where the amount paid to the Contracting Company exceeds or is expected to exceed £100,000

(2) How much your organisation has paid in total to each of these companies in the financial years 2015-16, 2016-17 and so far in the 2017 to 18. Include the total payment and a monthly break down. For the financial year 2017-18 you will include an estimated total spend for the whole financial year.

(3) I require the following for each of the contracts that these companies won or were selected for

(3.1) the total number of companies that bid for or were considered for each contract and whether a direct award was made

(3.2) What process was followed to ensure that Value For Money was achieved in spending public money

(3.3) Whether any conflicts of interest were declared by any of your staff in relation to these contracts and the companies that bid for them

(3.4) Whether any payment or gifts were declared by any of your staff in relation to these contracts and the companies that bid for them

(3.4) Whether to your knowledge any of these contractors has previously worked for your organisation as a member of staff since 2012

(3.5) Whether to your knowledge any of your staff subsequently left your organisation to work for one of these companies

(3.6) The value or original estimated value of each initial contract as well as its final value - or current value if still underway

(3.7) The initial or estimated planned time frame of each original version of contract compared to the final version.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

The department was created in July 2016 and we have interpreted your question to relate to information held by BEIS from that date.

1. & 3. From our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request (in full) without exceeding the cost limit of £600 provided under s12 of the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act'). This is a provision which provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request where the cost of complying would exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

To find all the information requested we would need to locate and examine all relevant IT contracts and determine which contracts exceed £100,000. In addition we would need to search HR records to find if relevant information is held for parts of Q3. We estimate that it will take in excess of 3.5 working days and exceed the cost limit of £600 to provide you with the information you have requested. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

You may wish to consider revising your request by narrowing its scope, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required.

2. We can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested. However, some of the information is already in the public domain and is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Act as we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you. The department's spending on suppliers is published as part of the transparency data and the information you have requested (for August 2016 to March 2017) is available through the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/beis-spending-over-25000>

The information you have requested regarding the Department's spend (from April 2017 onwards) is intended for future publication on this website, and as such it is exempt from the FOIA under section 22(1). Your request has therefore been refused under this exemption. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. We recognise that there is a general public interest in disclosure of this information as greater transparency increases public scrutiny and confidence in government. However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, we consider that the best use of public resources is in pulling this information together, ensuring it is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format and in accordance with the established publishing procedure, rather than being released in a piecemeal fashion. Having considered the public interest, we consider that the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information. The Department's decision is therefore to withhold the information.

Appeals procedure

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 request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
Email: FOI.Requests@beis.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Digital, Data, and Technology
BEIS