



request-235160-8ed8296b@whatdotheyknow.com

23 February 2015

Dear Mr Smith,

REVIEW OF REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000
Cabinet Office Internal Review Reference: IR320196
(Original Case Reference: Fol320196)

Thank you for your email of 18 November. You asked for an internal review of our response to your request for information of 21 October. In your request you asked for information relating to all active frameworks run by the Crown Commercial Service. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I have interpreted your request for "number of suppliers on framework" to include the number of subcontracted suppliers (as well as prime suppliers) engaged in active Crown Commercial Service frameworks. To acquire all information relevant to this aspect of your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" (set at 24 working hours for central government departments), and consequently I consider that the exemption at Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act ("the Act") was properly applied.

Having thoroughly reviewed your case I can confirm that although data relating to your request is held by the Crown Commercial Service it is not held in a format that can be interrogated or manipulated to deliver the information you have requested; specifically to deliver:

"... a breakdown of all active procurement frameworks, as currently listed in the CCS website, including: Name of Framework
Reference number for Framework (if applicable); Start and End dates of Framework; Number of suppliers on framework; Total number of competitions that have been run since start of the framework; Total actual spend to date for each Framework."

The manual work involved in producing the data you have requested from the main raw dataset would exceed the cost limit proscribed by the Act. Moreover, I have also taken into account that the intention of Section 12 of the Act is to ensure that requests for information are not disproportionately burdensome to the public purse. I also note that most of the information you have requested is in the public domain and can be accessed manually from the information we have published. I can confirm that the name, reference number, start/end dates and list of all prime suppliers for each active Crown Commercial Service framework can be found at the following link: <http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>.

I have therefore concluded that I should uphold the decision given in our original response, sent to you on 17 November.

You may wish to refine your request to bring it within the cost limit. For example, you might be able to achieve this by reducing the scope of your request to cover a limited number of frameworks. I should point out that the more you limit the scope of your

request, the more likely it is to fall within the cost limit. Should you wish to make a further request, it may assist you to know that we do not hold any information on the total number of competitions run since the start of each framework, except in relation to RM1043 Digital Services.

Should you wish to pursue any of the additional questions you raised in your email of 18 November, please submit a new FOI request.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request for information 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Smethurst', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Roger Smethurst

Deputy Director and Head of Knowledge and Information Management Unit