



Cabinet Office

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70 Whitehall
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foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Trevor Price

By email: request-735895-cb08178d@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2021/05561

24 March 2021

Dear Trevor Price

We refer to your request where you asked:

“Alexander Mann Solutions are a PRIVATE company with a service provision contract to the government. They source contract and contingent workers through a framework of suppliers and agencies approved by the Crown Commercial Service. This framework is often quoted in FOI requests as the method which is used to procure contingent workers.

I believe there are approximately 300 plus suppliers and agencies which form the Crown Commercial Service and through which contract and contingent workers is sourced, please could you supply me with a full list of these suppliers and agencies.”

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the requested information is held by the Cabinet Office, including the Crown Commercial Service (CCS).

I am withholding this information as I believe that disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of the named supplier and the Crown Commercial Service, consistent with the exemption at Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43 is a 'qualified' exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. In reaching the eventual decision, I have considered various factors of the public

interest test, both in favour of disclosure and in withholding the requested information, which are discussed below:

Factors in favour of disclosing the requested information include:

- Private sector companies engaging in commercial activities with the public sector must expect some information about those activities to be disclosed throughout the lifecycle of all commercial arrangements;

Factors in favour of withholding the requested information include:

- The requested information contains information on the prime suppliers operations, which if released would affect their competitive position in their respective market and confidence that its customers, suppliers or investors may have in its commercial operations, that in turn will have an effect on their ability to compete on a level playing field in current and future commercial activity both in the public and private sector;
- Potential bidders for future contracts may be deterred from competing and sharing information with us, which would negatively impact upon the quality and quantity of Governments' supplier base;
- The Crown Commercial Service must retain commercial confidence of all parties when they choose to share commercially sensitive information with the department. If this information were to be released, it would impact upon CCS' commercial and professional relationship with the supplier and the market as a whole;

After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, I have determined that the balance of public interest is in favour of withholding this information requested under Section 43(2) of the FOIA.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Rachel Anderson
Head of Freedom of Information
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. B. K.', is written over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office