

10th April 2018

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) – List of Current FM & Building Suppliers & Subcontractors

Dear John Westlake,

Thank you for your request made under the FOIA.

You're Request

From: John Westlake [<mailto:request-452644-c5761f46@whatdotheyknow.com>]

Sent: 14 December 2017 01:19

To: University Secretary

Subject: Freedom of Information request - List of Current FM & Building Suppliers & Subcontractors

Dear University of West London,

I would like a list of the top 20 -30 subcontractors, suppliers or service provider company names that provide any forms of facilities & estates management services such as contract cleaning , maintenance , plumbing, electrical, roofing, work , gardening, landscaping, pest control, furniture, technology.

These will be companies you may have framework agreements with.

If a list isn't readily available from your purchasing, facilities or estates management dept. please simply write down the company names. Should only take ten mins of your time to put together.

Also if possible please detail the main 5 contractors used for any major regeneration or building works the university had or have currently underway.

Yours faithfully,

John Westlake

Response:

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) relating to

- A. Your request**
- B. The University's response**
- C. Exemptions relied on by the University Section 43(2) of Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

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

In this case, your request for disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the current and future contract holders as it would be prejudicial to commercial interests, and fair tendering for other contractors, to disclose this information before a tender advert is produced by the University.

D. The public interest

This exemption is subject to the public interest test.

There is an inherent public interest in ensuring that there is openness and transparency in the spending of public money. Transparency is likely to increase confidence in procurement procedures and purchasing decisions made by the University. It will also enable the public to understand whether the University is getting value for money from its purchasing decisions.

Having said this, we believe that disclosure of the quotes or bids submitted by companies could prejudice the University's ability to make sound purchasing decisions as tenderers would not be operating from a level playing field. For example, disclosure of a winning tenderer's bid to a competitor could lead to the competitor copying elements of the bid in order to win work without actually having the internal mechanisms (capacity, staffing skills, etc.) to deliver the product or service at the level and price outlined. This could lead to increased instances of projects running over budget or procurement disputes, which would be contrary to the public interest as they would have to be funded from the public purse.

Complaints

If you believe that the University has not dealt with your request in accordance with the FOIA, you may raise a complaint in accordance with the complaints mechanism set out in the attached link <http://www.uwl.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-works/governance/public-information>

Kind Regards

Ann-Marie Spittle
Complaints and Appeals Administrator
Directorate
University of West London