



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Alex Devine
request-743242-843e989c@whatdotheyknow.com

18 June 2021

Dear Alex Devine,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1319945

Thank you for your request dated 1 April, in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contract below.

Management Accounts Assistant G7 Temporary Staff:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/76a9efe0-8220-43a6-8e0a-dc3b53061c9d>

The details we require are:

- *Suppliers who applied for inclusion on each framework/contract and were successful & not successful at the PQQ & ITT stages*
- *Previous bid documentation*
- *Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date*
- *Start date & duration of framework*
- *Is there an extension clause in the framework(s)/contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?*
- *Has a decision been made yet on whether the framework(s)/contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?*
- *Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?"*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Please accept my apologies for the delay in our response.

1. Suppliers who applied for inclusion on each framework/contract and were successful & not successful at the PQQ & ITT stages

DHSC does not hold information relevant to your request. This is because we aren't the appropriate authority to contact on this subject.

The contract referenced in your request is a single call off contract from a Crown Commercial Services (CSS) framework. Therefore, you may wish to instead contact CSS as they may hold information relevant to your request. You can submit an FOI to CSS using the following email address: info@crownccommercial.gov.uk

2. Previous bid documentation

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. However, it is being withheld under Section 43 of the FOIA, which exempts from the general duty to release information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any entity, including the public authority holding the information.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and, as such, we are required to assess the public interest in withholding this information against that of its release. We recognise a general public interest in transparency of Government, particularly surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, as this builds public trust.

However, we also take into account the fact that this information is commercially sensitive, and we consider that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as it would prejudice future commercial relations with suppliers and our ability to secure best value for money if this information were to be disclosed into the public domain. Therefore, we consider that the balance of interest favours withholding this information.

Outside of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, you may find the following information useful:

https://atamis-1928.cloudforce.com/sfc/p/00000000rwim/a/4J000000klf/.hp67Sfcd4.QSPbAgK_H1RjztWdjOm31ovMIEjQL7QI

3. Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date

DHSC holds some information relevant to your request. The actual spend on the call off contract is £76,314.48. However, we do not hold information regarding the spend on the framework. In this instance, you may wish to contact CCS using the aforementioned email address, as they may hold information relevant to your request.

4. Start date & duration of framework

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. The start and end dates for the contract is the 24th April 2021 to the 30th September 2021. The start and end dates for the framework is 30th July 2019 to the 25th July 2023.

5. Is there an extension clause in the framework(s)/contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. This call off contract is extendable, if required, and can be extended for up to half of the original contract length. In this case, this would be up to 6 weeks.

6. Has a decision been made yet on whether the framework(s)/contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. No decision has been made on whether to extend this specific call off contract.

7. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?

DHSC holds information relevant to your request. However, it is being withheld under section 40(2) of the FOIA, which protects personally identifiable information in line with data protection principles. However, we can confirm that a Deputy Director in the Finance Division is the senior responsible officer for the contract.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter and sent to FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk, or to the address at the top of this letter.

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

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the ICO. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response and received our internal review decision. You should raise your concerns with the ICO within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Piper Hewitt-Dudding
Freedom of Information Officer
FreedomOfInformation@dhsc.gov.uk