



Department
for Transport

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Our Ref: F0020252

8th October 2021

Iain Lane

request-791778-69d3633a@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Iain Lane,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST F0020252

Thank you for your information request of 15th September 2021. You requested the following information:

Would you please send over all of the documents that Nottingham City Council submitted as part of its Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 bid? The formal bid itself (submitted via an online survey as far as I know), as well as all the supporting documentation and letters that you asked for.

I am writing to confirm that your request has been considered under the FOI Act 2000. The Department is currently assessing every bid that has been received for 2021/2022 active travel capital funding, including Nottingham City Council's bid.

The information you request is being withheld at this time in reliance on the exemption in section 43(2) of the Act. We are unable to release the full proformas until we have completed the assessment process and communicated the final allocations to authorities, which we expect to do shortly. We will also need to give local authorities an opportunity to redact any aspects of their proformas deemed commercially sensitive under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act: this is likely to take some time.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The attached annex A to this letter sets out the exemption in full and details why the public interest test favours withholding the information.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have responded to or handled your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. These should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of this letter and addressed to the FOI Advice Team at FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk.

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

If you ask for an internal review and are still not content with the outcome, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via their online form: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>

Yours sincerely

By email

John Sweetman

**Cycling and Walking Stakeholder Engagement, Active Travel,
Department for Transport**

Annex A

Exemption in full – Section 43(2)	
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).	
Public interest test factors for disclosure	Public interest test factors against disclosure
Disclosure would contribute to the Department's wider transparency agenda.	<p>This information is commercially sensitive as it contains sensitive business planning details of the authority, provided as part of the submission process. Disclosure of these details would impact their ability to compete in a commercial market.</p> <p>If third party sensitive technical, financial and operational details provided as part of procurement or grant process were routinely disclosed organisations would be reluctant to share information with the Department that they were not required to or would be reluctant to enter in to contact with government. This would make it harder for the Department to carry out its role.</p> <p>In addition the disclosure of certain details of grant evaluation process would prejudice the Department's approach to any similar future grant competition.</p>
<u>Decision</u> On balance the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.	