

FOI2842 – Concerning procurement of Occupational Health Services for the Trust.

We can confirm that Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust can advise as follows in response to your Freedom of Information Request:

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

Occupational Health Services

The details we require are:

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

The successful supplier that now provides our occupational health services is People Asset Management Limited.

Regarding information of unsuccessful suppliers, we have applied a section 43(2) exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is a qualified exemption used where disclosure of requested information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (in this case our Trust and our suppliers). As this is a qualified exemption we must undertake a public interest test which is set out below in addition to explanations behind our engagement of this exemption.

Disclosures which would provide details of these suppliers and the success of their bids would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. In future, private suppliers would be unlikely to engage in future negotiations and discussions as they would not want information on their arrangements with the Trust to be made public. Private businesses are under no obligation or expectation of transparent disclosure as with public authorities and many suppliers would react strongly to us disclosing their confidential business information. Such disclosure would prejudice their interests; in turn this would prejudice our interests as we must consider both quality and value for money when procuring services and this would be jeopardised if various suppliers refused to interact with us.

We are aware of the public interest in this topic, especially where this relates to the provision of public services. There is also always a strong interest in disclosure from the Freedom of Information Act; in addition to our Trust's commitment to transparency and openness. However, while we strive to be transparent, we must also consider the importance of our duty to provide the public with quality and value for money services.



As a result of this duty, and the risk of potential prejudice to it posed by the various reasons laid out above, we believe the interest in withholding this information outweighs that for disclosure. We therefore find that the section 43(2) exemption is appropriately engaged in this case.

- Actual contract values of each framework/contract (& any sub lots)

Estimated annual value £300,000 however this is a cost and volume contract so the annual fee varies.

- Start date & duration of framework

The contract start date is 5.1.2017, prime term 3 years

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

Yes there is an extension clause and a 2 year extension has been agreed.

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

See above

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

Louise Jones, Senior HR Manager, Best Practice Development.