

Draft Response to FOI 2012/157-F0219815

**“In relation to the Student Lifecycle (MyCampus) project, could you please provide me with a list of purchase orders and contracts, with a value of £5000 or more, which were not subjected to a tendering process?
For each purchase order or contract I am interested to know:**

All purchase orders and contracts in excess of £5,000 resulted from a recognised tendering process or use of National Framework Agreements, other than those related to the recruitment of specialist independent contractors

What was purchased?

Specialist IT skills

b. Name of the Supplier.

Please C. below

c. The overall value.

Agencies used and value of contracts to end July 2012

ADVANCED PERSONNEL LIMITED	£502,513
COMPUTER FUTURES SOLUTIONS	£1,218,471
CONSULT YOURSELF TOGETHER COOPERATIE U.A.	£45,717
LUCAS KENNEDY	£819,901
MODIS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	£92,532
SANDERSON RECRUITMENT PLC	£433,028
SKILLSEARCH LTD	£42,900
SQUARE ONE RESOURCES LTD	£229,376
TRIAD RESOURCING	£290,337
	£3,674,775

Companies representing a single contractor are named below.

ACTIVE CONSULTING LLC
ALLISON BAXTER DESIGN
GO-FASTER CONSULTANCY LTD
MAC GROVELAND CONSULTING LIMITED
MINDBLOG INC
PARASOL LTD
PATRICK FURZE
SUCCEED CONSULTANCY LTD

WELCH CONSULTING CORPORATION

Total payments to the above nine individuals via their respective companies up to end July 2012 were £1,534,497

d. The reason for avoidance of the appropriate tendering process.”

PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STUDENT LIFE CYCLE PROJECT

The University tendered this project through the European Journal under the Competitive Dialogue procedure details of which can be found at the link below.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/competitive_dialogue_procedure.pdf

TOM TO INSERT A FEW WORDS ON FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS IE WE USED THEM AND THE NCC TENDDER WHICH WAS BELOW THE EUROPEAN THRESHOLD – OPEN??

An evaluation team consisting of key members of the Project Team, and the Head of Procurement where required, reduced the list to three viable applications from Tribal Solution, SungardeHE and ATOS Origin/Oracle. ATOS/Oracle were eventually chosen as the preferred supplier.

Part way through the project it was agreed that Oracle would step down as the lead implementation supplier.

A re-tendering exercise was rejected on the grounds that the market had already and recently been tested, there were also time and resource constraints.

It was decided that the best way forward for the University was to build on the progress already made but to achieve that it was necessary to engage outside specialist help in the form of independent contractors.

This raised a further procurement question as the expenditure was likely to be significant given the expertise required was in short supply. As the University were effectively going to engage specialist staff on a longer term basis it was decided that they fell into the Part B category of the European Procurement Regulations.

In summary this category can be described as services consisting in selecting, referring and placing applicants on a permanent or temporary basis. This procedure allows a contracting authority to follow a “lighter” acquisition process than that required by the full due process of the regulations. However the principles of transparency and fairness still apply.

To achieve this the University first advertised under its own name on the University’s web site, jobs.ac.uk and LinkedIn. The majority of CVs received were from a range of agencies specialising in the provision of independent contractors proficient in Peoplesoft, which accounted for around half of the expertise and resource required. Other specialists were found by similar means, and all applicants were screened and interviewed by the Project Board representatives before appointment. Award Notices for expenditure over the European threshold paid to any one firm or contractor will be published, satisfying one of the transparency requirements of the Part B process (the other being the selection method).

