

**Subject: Request for documentation and available discussions regarding 2012 contract with V4 RESOURCING LTD (renamed as NEPRO LIMITED, and latterly as BLOOM PROCUREMENT SERVICES LTD), and any related or similar contracts with V4 Holdings Ltd or V4 UK Holdings Ltd**  
**Date: 21st march 2017**

Dear North Eastern Purchasing Organisation,

I'm requesting release of all documents concerning contracts in 2012 and before with NEPRO Ltd, V4 Solutions Ltd, V4 Holdings Ltd, and/or V4 UK Holdings Ltd, including but not limited to:

- A- original OJEU invitation to tender which led to the award to V4 Solutions Ltd - renamed as NEPRO Ltd
  - B- submissions for this contract (with appropriate portions redacted)
  - C- review, scoring, evaluation, and award process including information on decision-making and individuals involved
  - D- award notice
  - E- correspondence regarding the operations and management of the contract between award and the new contract in 2015
  - F- any correspondence regarding the name, NEPRO Ltd, and similarities and risks of 'passing off' or any other confusion between NEPRO and NEPO
  - G- volumes, prices, and client data held on monitoring and management of the contract
  - H- data regarding monitoring of vendor neutrality (as advertised in NEPRO's name 'the neutral vendor solution for expert professional services')
  - I- any data held on relationships and chinese walls or other confidentiality arrangements between V4 Solutions Ltd (which became NEPRO), the owning company V4 holdings, its owning company V4 UK holdings, and any other consultancy/agency owned wholly or in part by the same organisation or individuals.
  - J- any challenge to the process of this contract or the award of this contract, including clarifications provided at the time of tendering.
- And any other information relevant to the question of the legality and propriety of the operations of NEPRO Ltd.

Yours faithfully,  
Arthur Burden

FOIA RESPONSE

Dear Mr Burden,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received 21st March 2017.

Under section 12 (1) of FOIA we are not obliged to deal with a request where the cost of complying would exceed the costs limit. The appropriate limit is £450. Under regulation 5 of the Fees regulations we are able to aggregate the cost of dealing with requests when received from one person or different people acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign where requests have been received within any period of 60 consecutive days. We have received the following requests from you.

09.02.2017 - Arthur Burden - 2015 Framework Contract

10.03.2017 - Arthur Burden - 2012 Contract

21.03.2017 - Arthur Burden - 2012 Contract

21.03.2017 - Arthur Burden - Bloom

21.03.2017 - Arthur Burden - Confidentiality

The requests we have already responded to have taken up significant officer time and complying with the latest request on its own, would exceed the costs limit. This would involve reviewing in excess of 10,000 emails from several internal employees. We have also migrated from a Microsoft platform to a Google based platform between the 2012 framework contract and 2015 framework contract. This would involve consultation with our external IT provider(s) to collate documentation/information between the previous and new system. Not only this, each of the documents requested have to be converted to their previous format before we are able to upload as part of the response. This takes significant time to manage.

For the reasons specified above your requests have exceeded the costs limit and we are not obliged to respond.

#### RIGHT TO REVIEW

You have a right of internal review to the Associate Director, Guildhall, Quayside. Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13AF. This will be a fresh consideration of your request by a more senior officer. If you wish to request a review you must do this in writing within 40 days of receipt of this letter.

You may apply under Section 50 of the Act to the Information Commissioner at the address given below

Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

For a decision whether, in any specified respect, a request for information made by you to the Department/office has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of Part 1 of the Act.

The Information Commissioner shall consider the matter fully and make a fresh decision.

Yours Sincerely,

North East Procurement Organisation Governance Team.