

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

R Bhowmick

request-689471-3438b7e9@whatdotheyknow.com

Jane Sowerby
Head of Education Improvement & Partnerships

Hyde Town Hall, Market Street, Hyde,
Tameside, SK14 1AL

www.tameside.gov.uk
e-mail: jane.sowerby@tameside.gov.uk
Call Centre 0161 342 8355

Ref: 1278249
Ask for: Jane Sowerby
Direct dial: 0161 342 3302
Date: 6 October 2020

Dear R Bhowmick,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information dated 4 September 2020 which the Council received by email. You have requested the following information:

- 1. Do you provide traded services to schools in your area, or do you contract this out to another party that is outside the local authority? If so, to which?*
- 2. Which school MIS (management information systems) providers do you hold support contracts or accreditations with, and for each MIS provider:*
 - a) What is the nature of the current arrangement (a paid contract, an unpaid accreditation)?*
 - b) When did the current arrangement begin and when it will finish (including any extensions)?*
 - c) If a paid contract, under what basis did you procure it (e.g. directly, through a framework, via OJEU procurement, other)?*
- 3. How many schools do you provide MIS support services to, and:*
 - a) How does this break down by Primary Academies, Primary Maintained, Secondary Academies, Secondary Maintained, Other (incl. PRUs, SENs)?*
 - b) How does this break down by MIS provider?*
 - c) How has this total changed between 2018/19, 2019/20 and this year (say as at June 1st 2018 vs. June 1st 2019 vs. June 1st 2020, or any similar convenient dates)?*
- 4. As part of your support to schools for each of these MIS providers, which of the following activities do you carry out (I am interested in whether the activities differ between MIS providers):*

- a) 1st line support
- b) 2nd line support
- c) 3rd line support
- d) Implementations
- e) Data audits / cleansing
- f) Regulatory / census submissions
- g) Server management
- h) Main data hosting
- i) Data backup
- j) User training
- k) Provide templates / configuration
- l) Analysis of data / insight services
- m) Resale of the software to schools (on a commission basis)
- n) Hosting or arranging local user group meetings / events

5. What was your total traded services income from schools (for all services) in 2018/19 and 2019/20?

6. What was your total traded service income for providing schools with MIS support for 2018/19 and 2019/20?

7. What is the current amount of de-delegated funding that you levy on LA-maintained schools (either in total, on a per school level, or a per learner level - whichever is easiest)?

8. What software or digital tools (learning, safeguarding or admin) do you provide to schools under the de-delegated funding allocation?

I am pleased to advise that the Council can provide the information you have requested.

1. The Council does provide Traded Services to schools.
2. Capita SIMS.
 - a. A paid contract.
 - b. Our current contract period is 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
 - c. Our contract was procured directly.
3. We provide MIS support services to 56 schools.

- a. Of which there are 3 primary academies, 47 primary maintained and 6 secondary maintained schools.
 - b. There is only provider.
 - c. April 2018/19 73 schools, April 2019/2020 65 schools, April 2020/21 56 schools.
4. There is only one provider – we provide various support activities of the nature mentioned.
 5. Total Traded Services income in 2018/19 was £7,544,515 and in 2019/20 was £6,746,941.

Question 6

Having carefully considered the matter, the Council has determined that the remainder of the information is exempt from disclosure under the following provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 43: Commercial Interests

This exemption applies because the disclosure of the withheld information would, if disclosed together with the information that has been disclosed, prejudice the Council's commercial interests for the following reasons: the Council is acting in a competitive market for the purposes of maximising income.

The Council has applied the public interest test and has determined that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. In reaching this decision, the Council has considered the following factors: the need to maintain income to the Council in the financial circumstances that currently face local government.

In accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of this part of your request.

7. The current amount of de-delegated funding is a total of £69,774.96.
8. None.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please quote the reference number 1278249 in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the Council's decision, you may do so within 40 working days of the date of this response. Please write to Sandra J Stewart, Borough Solicitor, at PO BOX 317, Ashton under Lyne, OL6 0GS.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Commissioner cannot normally make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF and at www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Sowerby
Head of Education Improvement & Partnerships