



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

FOI 4554- Section 43(2) Refusal Notice

Information is exempt if its disclosure under the Act would, or would likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). When this exemption is engaged, a public authority must evidence the prejudice. Consideration must be given to whether in all the circumstances of the case the public interest favouring disclosure is greater than the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure:

We consider the general proposition of maximising openness that the council aspire to; there is a positive benefit in transparency as to how public money is spent, and to disclose this information would provide accountability in terms of the council's procurement procedures.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information:

Whilst there may be limited local interest in the requested information, there is little, or no, greater public interest in disclosure. Release of the requested information would be of benefit to other similar businesses, but would be to the detriment of the businesses whose data is disclosed. Without safe space for 'confidential service agreements' confidence is greatly reduced and this in turn is likely to prejudice the council's current or future procurement negotiations.

It is the decision of the council that on this occasion the public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

For your information, this letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Faye Biddles'.

Faye Biddles
Information Governance Officer