

Andrew Gadd
What Do They Know
By email
request-46079-1cb1db69@whatdotheyknow.com

5 October 2010

Dear Andrew Gadd

Re: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your response and the clarification you have made supplied regarding your request for information on the matter of Offender Learning contract awards to The Manchester College.

Firstly, under your previous request, you sought:

"The Manchester College was awarded the contract for Offender Learning for many prison. Their contract started on 1st August 2009.

Why did the SFA (or the LSC as it was in 2009) award the contract to The Manchester College?

I would like a detailed reply and not a simple "we thought they were the best provider".

As a result of you seeking a detailed reply, the Agency undertook a search to provide information it could identify which explained the basis on which the Learning and Skills Council awarded Offender Learning contracts to The Manchester College. Please be assured that it was not the intention of the Agency to side step your question, but rather to provide the information which was identified as addressing the request. Thank you, however, for the further clarification provided.

The Agency has therefore undertaken further searches in relation to your response dated 30 September and can supply the following information which it has identified as holding:

1. *You have requested a simple list of criteria used for the tendering process.*

Skills Funding Agency

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An agency of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

This information is listed on page 2 of the previous response supplied on 29 September as follows:

“... the LSC set out in the ITT the five criteria against which the tenders would be evaluated. These were:

- *Delivery of the service*
- *Partnership working*
- *Employability agenda*
- *Value for money*
- *Added value to the learner and the Service”*

A copy of the response is published here:

<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/46079/response/117728/attach/7/SFA%20requestforinformationresponseAGaddref01%2009%20201.pdf>

I am also attaching a copy of the letter sent to tenderers who were invited to make a presentation. The letter details what each organisation was expected to present at that stage of the process.

2. You have requested a copy of the scores for the various tendering organisations.

A spreadsheet for the scores for those contracts awarded to The Manchester College is attached, which includes the scores awarded for the other participating organisations, and includes a breakdown for both parts of the process (written submission and interview) and for each of the relevant regions. The tabs at the foot of the spreadsheet provide access to scores for each of the regional awards.

Finally, in the course of handling your request, it has been identified that a previous request on the same subject and presented in March to the former Learning and Skills Council (LSC) was not completed before the organisation closed, and which has resulted, I believe, in the need for you to write and make this request of the Skills Funding Agency. Please accept my apologies for the failure to provide a response, which, upon review would have resulted in provision of the information now supplied.

I hope you find the information helpful. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Russel Bailey

Head of Records and Rights

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