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R Begum
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6 July 2022

Dear R Begum

Freedom of Information Request reference: 70182

Thank you for your e-mail of 31st May in which you ask for **information relating to the initial application process for the Youth Endowment Fund**. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the following information:

1) Please provide a copy of Impetus' application to the Home Office in 2019 which led to the creation of the Youth Endowment Fund

Bid documents received from Impetus are attached at Annex A.

Some information has been redacted under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because of the condition at section 40(3A)(a) is satisfied. This condition concerns the personal data of third parties where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles. The Home Office has obligations under data protection legislation to protect personal data. This exempts personal data from release if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. We believe release would breach the first data protection principle, since it would be unlawful and unfair to disclose the information.

Further information has been redacted under section 43(2) due to commercial interests/sensitivity. This provides that information can be withheld where its disclosure under the Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it) and the public interest falls in favour of maintaining the exemption

Arguments for and against disclosure in terms of the public interest, with the reasons for our conclusion, are set out in the enclosed Annex B.

2) What was the process of the Home Office appointing Impetus with a 10 year mandate?

Competed award of grant funding.

3) Was this an advertised process?

Yes, this can be found publicly on the government's contract finder service titled 'Youth Endowment Fund for England and Wales'.

[Youth Endowment Fund for England and Wales - Contracts Finder](#)

3.1) Was it advertised in Welsh?

No, documents were available in Welsh on request.

4) Please provide any equality, diversity, and inclusion documentation relating to Impetus' application relating to the public sector equality duty.

Impetus did not provide any documentation relating to equality, diversity, and inclusion within Impetus' application documentation. This question was not required in bidding documents.

5) Who controls the distribution of YEF funds?

The Youth Endowment Fund has its own governance structures in place to determine how it distributes the fund. For further details on this, contact the Youth Endowment Fund directly: www.youthendowmentfund.org.uk or hello@youthendowmentfund.org.uk.

6) Is the distribution of YEF funds subject to PSED under the Equality Act 2010?

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 applies to public bodies listed in Schedule 19 to that Act, and to a person who is not listed in that Schedule but who exercises public functions.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **70182**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>

Yours sincerely

Rachel Coffey

Annex B

Freedom of Information request from R. Begum (reference 70182)

Information Requested:

- 1] Please provide a copy of Impetus' application to the Home Office in 2019 which led to the creation of the Youth Endowment Fund
- 2] What was the process of the Home Office appointing Impetus with a 10 year mandate?
- 3] Was this an advertised process?
 - 3.1] Was it advertised in Welsh?
- 4] Please provide any equality, diversity, and inclusion documentation relating to Impetus' application relating to the public sector equality duty.
- 5] Who controls the distribution of YEF funds?
- 6] Is the distribution of YEF funds subject to PSED under the Equality Act 2010?

Response:

A redacted copy of the application and supporting documents is provided. Redactions were made under s43 for commercial interests and s40 for personal information.

Public Interest test in relation to section 43(2):

Some of the exemptions in the FOIA, referred to as 'qualified' exemptions, are subject to a public interest test (PIT). This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in maintaining the exemption. We must carry out a PIT where we are considering using any of the qualified exemptions in response to a request for information.

The 'public interest' is not necessarily the same as what interests the public. In carrying out a PIT we consider the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole if the information is released or not. Transparency and the 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective government and to serve the best interests of the public.

The FOIA is 'applicant blind'. This means that we cannot, and do not, ask about the motives of anyone who asks for information. In providing a response to one person, we are expressing a willingness to provide the same response to anyone.

Considerations in favour of disclosing the information:

There is a public interest in disclosure to the extent that this would help ensure that there is full transparency in the Home Office's use of public funds and in particular to maintain the department's accountability to taxpayers. Disclosure of this information would also enable the public to assess whether or not the Home Office is getting best value for money in terms of its contracts with private providers and partner agencies. Disclosure of the process followed would also lead to greater accountability and reassuring the public that the tendering process was fairly run.

There is a public interest in Government departments and agencies being able to secure contracts that represent value for money and anything that would undermine this is not in the public interest. Value for money can best be obtained where there is a healthy competitive environment, coupled with the protection of the Government's commercial relationship with industry.

Considerations in favour maintaining the exemption:

Release of the withheld information would provide competitors with information, not available to them by any other means, about current service providers. This would create an unfair advantage resulting in a prejudice to the commercial interests of the company concerned. Disclosure would also prejudice the Home Office's commercial interests by damaging commercial relationships with contractors and service providers. This risks:

- Companies would be discouraged from dealing with the public sector, fearing disclosure of information that may damage them commercially; or
- Companies would withhold information where possible, making the choice of the best contractor more uncertain as it would be based on limited censored data.

Additionally, Home Office specifically checked with the Supplier of the awarded grant who confirmed their commercial interests would be damaged by release of the information requested.

Conclusion:

We conclude that the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and withholding specified information.