



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Our ref:** RFI 6770

**Date:** 13 October 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DEFRA/ LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS PFI  
RENEGOTIATION CONTRACT**

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2014, which we received on 23 July, requesting information on Defra's work with Local Partnerships to renegotiate the PFI contracts. I apologise for the delay, we are currently experiencing a high number of EIRs/FOIA requests making it difficult to respond within the deadlines.

You asked the following questions:

**1. Please provide the date when this commission/ contract was entered into?**

This work, which started in September 2013, has been carried out as an extension to an existing contract with Local Partnerships (LP).

**2. Please provide the details of the fees paid to date?**

The fees paid to date are £1,022,008.07. This includes outstanding invoices and VAT.

**3. Please provide details of the expected fee spend with Local Partnerships over the first 48 months of the contract period?**

The current contract expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, by which time we expect to have spent £1,608,000 including VAT on fees with Local Partnerships on this work.

**4. Please provide an explanation of why this contract was not advertised in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006?**

The contract was not advertised in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 because:

- LP is the public body set up to provide advice to local and central government on how best to achieve value for money through effective



- procurement, risk management and contract management. It is funded by HM Treasury and the Local Government Association (LGA).
- LP has a public sector mission and its role is to provide commercial support to LGA members and to assist government departments in the implementation of policy initiatives, particularly where they affect local bodies.
  - LP has specialist staff which have the required technical understanding of the waste sector, local and central government governance, competitive dialogue, contracting under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and contract management.
  - LP has proven experience of providing support and challenge to local authority procurement project teams and has the trust of these teams as an independent source of information.
  - HM Treasury and the LGA required LP to calibrate costs on the basis that it is to recover costs, rather than maximise profit, to provide value for money support to local authorities and central government.
  - LP only carries out work for the public sector, so there is no prospect of conflicts of interests in relation to private sector clients.

As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOIA and EIR Team

Email: [informationrequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

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## Annex B

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF