



Our Reference:

BY EMAIL ONLY

7 April 2015

Dear

Request for Information

Thank you for your email dated 11 March 2015 requesting Lease cars and company cars at the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). For ease of reference your request is below:

Please could you detail the following information in an excel spreadsheet and email back to this email address for response.

Please create a separate tab for each of the lines requested below -

Lease Cars / Company Car Information required -

- *Full listed sorted by manufacturer, including make / model / individual cost per vehicle, please indicate if leased, and lease duration*
- *Full total cost to the company for all lease cars*
- *Full total cost of any employee payments towards lease cars*
- *Full total cost of road tax, insurance, maintenance, per car*
- *Full total of miles completed per year, per car*
- *Any pool or loan vehicle please detail make, model, cost and location based*
- *List of cars, make, model, split by department and allocated on a per job title basis*
- *Is the fleet managed internally or outsourced ?*
- *If Outsourced please detail the provider*
- *If internally managed please detail why management is not outsourced ?*

We can confirm we hold all the information you have requested and have attached a spreadsheet which provides details. However we have determined that some of this information, if disclosed, would cause harm to the commercial interests of the HCA. Disclosure would harm the HCA's commercial interests by undermining our ability to effectively negotiate rental/lease values to ensure the best value for money and/or best contractor to fulfil the contracts. Therefore the following information under the 'costs' tab has been redacted in line with Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

- Employee Contribution

- Annual Lease rental
- Net rental Cost
- Insurance
- NI
- Cost per car

We are able to inform you that employee contribution is set at 25% of the lease costs.

Section 43(2) – Prejudice to commercial interests

Section 43(2) of the Act permits a public authority to withhold information where disclosure “would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any party,” including the public authority holding the information.

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, which means a Public Interest Test is required in order for it to be maintained. A Public Interest test involves balancing the weight of arguments for and against disclosure.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of disclosure

Disclosing the requested information would promote the accountability and transparency of the HCA as well as providing increased information about the application of public funds. This in turn provides a basis for a more informed public debate about the value of money being obtained by the HCA.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

Disclosure of the information would be likely to effect the HCA’s ability to operate effectively in a competitive market as it would disclose how much value we put on a contract, therefore creating a disadvantage the next time we do a tender exercise for the same contract. Potential bidders could base their proposed costs on the current value which would diminish our ability to negotiate.

It is not in the public interest to diminish a public authority’s ability to be competitive in a commercial market by releasing information as the result of an FOIA request when it is seeking to achieve best value for the public purse.

We have, therefore, concluded that the balance of the public interest favours non-disclosure of this information at this time. We would, however, stress that the public interest is an ever changing concept and the arguments may change over time.

If you have any questions regarding this response or any further queries you can contact us at the following addresses and quote your unique reference number found at the top of this letter:

Email: mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk

Mail: Information Access Officer

Homes and Communities Agency

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Homes and Communities Agency
Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

0300 1234 500
homesandcommunities.co.uk

If you are unhappy with the way Homes and Communities Agency has handled your request you may ask for an internal review. You should contact

Head of Legal Services
Homes and Communities Agency
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at

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

Yours sincerely

Naomi McMaster
Information Access Officer
Homes and Communities Agency