

Our ref: 754,663

Your ref:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

via E-mail

cc:

From:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GTN:

[REDACTED]
31 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

FOI 754, 663 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SUCCESSFUL TENDER OF THE CCS COURIER SERVICES FRAMEWORK RM3798

I am writing to advise you that we do hold information that is relevant to your request for information relating to the successful tender of the CCS Courier Services Framework RM3798 but regret to inform you of my decision not to disclose this information.

The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on the exemption in section 43 (2) [<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/43>] of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the award is currently in a stand still period and time needs to be allowed for the bidder to consider the offer and for any challenges to be made.

For information, once the standstill period ends and the contract is awarded the information will be made public via the Government's Contracts Finder page in compliance with transparency requirements.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are detailed in Annex A below.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests.

Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail info@highwaysengland.co.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 754, 663 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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████████████████████

Annex A:

Request for CCS Courier Services Framework RM3798 - successful tender Information	
FOIA Exemption S.43 (2) – Commercial Interests	
<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a clear public interest in the work of government being closely examined to encourage the discharging of public functions in the most efficient and effective way;• There is an important public interest in the work of public bodies being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and to protect the public purse;• There is a public interest in disclosing information about public procurements to ensure there is transparency in the spending of public money and that public bodies are getting value for money when entering into contracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The procurement process must be seen to be fair and that commercial interests of the suppliers of services are not unduly prejudiced by the release of commercially sensitive information. It is important to maintain the confidence of our suppliers in order to achieve best value for the tax payer;• The award is currently in a stand still period to allow time for the bidder to consider the offer and for any challenges to be made.
<p>Conclusion: there are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release.</p> <p>PIT Members:</p> <p>Date of PIT: 29/08/2017</p>	