



UK Hydrographic Office

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REF: FOI202010452

03 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 10th September 2020 requesting the following information:

"I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contracts below.

1. *Total Facilities Management Services*
2. *TFM Services Years 1 -3*

The details we require are:

- *The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.*
- *When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.*
- *When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?*
- *Is the current contract likely to be extended?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the UKHO, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below, at annex A but some of the information is exempt under the qualified exemption Section 43 (Commercial interest) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Section 43 has been applied because some of the information would prejudice the commercial interests of UKHO if released. The information is only available to bidders once they express interest in the tender via our e Procurement portal and agree to keep the contents confidential.

The public interest test concluded that while release of this information would promote openness and transparency, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this information.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting

the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

UKHO Secretariat

Annex A

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contracts below.

Total Facilities Management Services
TFM Services Years 1 -3

The details we require are:

- The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.

This document is withheld under Section 43 (commercially interests). The information is only available to bidders once they express interest in the tender via our e Procurement portal and agree to keep the contents confidential.

- When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.

Contract and services are due to expire on 31st December 2021, so therefore any new Contract and services will start from 1st January 2022

- When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?

Under normal circumstances, and with the above expiry date in mind, the UKHO would be aiming to start re-tendering by early Spring 2021, to enable effective tendering to occur, and also include a 3 month transition and mobilisation period prior to contract services starting on 1st January 2022. The current Contract was tendered/competed through the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM1065. No discussions or decisions have been taken yet about re-tendering.

- Is the current contract likely to be extended?

This is currently subject to review as we have the option for 2 x 12 month extensions.