



Homes
England

Date: 24 June 2021

Our Ref: RFI3481

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Making homes happen

████████████████████
By Email Only

Windsor House
Homes England – 6th Floor
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Dear ██████████

RE: Request for Information – RFI3481

Thank you for your recent email, which was processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). You requested the following information:

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

HCA Property Professional Services Framework:

The details we require are:

- *Suppliers who applied for inclusion on each framework/contract and were successful & not successful at the PQQ & ITT stages*
- *Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date*
- *Start date & duration of framework*
- *Is there an extension clause in the framework(s)/contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?*
- *Has a decision been made yet on whether the framework(s)/contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?*
- *Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?*

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Response

We can confirm that we do hold some of the information you have requested. We will address each of your questions in turn.

1. *Suppliers who applied for inclusion on each framework/contract and were successful & not successful at the PQQ & ITT stages.*

Successful Applicants:

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 21, exemption where information is available to the applicant elsewhere.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. As such, we can advise that the list of suppliers who applied for a place on the framework and were successful at PQQ and ITT stages are available on the following link on the gov.uk webpage: [Property Framework Suppliers List, Technical and Property Frameworks - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Unsuccessful Applicants:

Section 41 – Information provided in confidence

Under section 41(1)(b) of the FOIA Homes England is not obliged to disclose information to the public if it would constitute a breach of confidence.

Unsuccessful applicants applied to Homes England for inclusion on the panel in confidence and with the expectation that their applications would not be publicly disclosed. To disclose the names of unsuccessful applicants would be likely to lead to the public being able to infer details of these companies' financial status and future business plans.

Although section 41 of the FOIA is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a full public interest test, we can confirm that we have considered the public interest in disclosure as a breach of confidence may not be actionable if there is an overriding public interest in that disclosure. In regard to the unsuccessful applicant names we feel that there is no overriding public interest in favour of disclosure.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/41>

2. *Actual spend on this contract/framework (and any sub lots), from the start of the contract to the current date*

The actual spend to date is £63,082,103. There have been no sub lots.

3. *Start date & duration of framework*

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 21, exemption where information is available to the applicant elsewhere.



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The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. As such, we can advise that this information is available in the relevant section on the gov.uk website, [Technical and Property Frameworks - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

4. Is there an extension clause in the framework(s)/contract(s) and, if so, the duration of the extension?

There is no extension clause in the framework.

5. Has a decision been made yet on whether the framework(s)/contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?

We are able to confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request. This is because there is no legal or business reason for Homes England to do so.

In order to conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Procurement team who would have the requested information if held.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty under section 1(1) is only to provide the recorded information held.

The full text of section 1 in the legislation can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/1>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. As such we can advise that we hold no recorded information regarding any potential discussions to extend or renew this framework.

6. Who is the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for this contract?

We are able to inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on Section 40 (2) of the FOIA to withhold the information from disclosure.

Section 40 – Personal information

We are withholding information on the grounds that it constitutes third party personal data and therefore engages section 40(2) of the FOIA.

To disclose personal data, such as names, contact details, addresses and email addresses could lead to the identification of third parties and would breach one or more of the data protection principles.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption which means that we do not need to consider the public interest in disclosure. Once it is established that the information is personal data of a third party and release would breach one or more of the data protection principles, then the exemption is engaged.

The full text in the legislation can be found on the following link;

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>



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Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. As such we can advise that the responsible team to contact within Homes England regarding this framework is the procurement team. Correspondence can be directed via our enquires team: enquiries@homesengland.gov.uk or 0300 1234 500.

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

The Information Governance Team
Homes England – 6th Floor
Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.

You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link <https://ico.org.uk/>

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team
For Homes England

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