



Government Legal Department

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Ref No: **FOI 24_582**

28th August 2024

Dear

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2024 which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department (“GLD”) have processed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

Request

Please may you provide me with:

- 1. What software you are currently using to facilitate BACS payments & what is the date of the renewal for this contract?*
- 2. How much you are paying annually for this contract, and where do you advertise for this tender?*

This is to identify tender opportunities, please provide the information in the form of an email.

Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD informs you that partially holds the information you have requested.

GLD BACS software is Autopay. We do not have a set contract renewal date. We have not disclosed the amount that we pay our supplier annually as we consider this information is commercially sensitive and exempt under section 43(2) of the FOI Act 2000, Prejudice of Commercial Interests exemption. This exemption states information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

GLD considers that providing this information in relation to questions 2 could prejudice the tendering process for this contract, making the tendering process less competitive.

Section 43(2) is a prejudice-based exemption and GLD recognises the need for transparency. However, this must be balanced against the public interest in allowing the organisation to protect its commercial information and not place itself at a disadvantage in the market.

GLD considers the prejudice would be likely to occur and would involve an adverse effect on the ability to obtain value for taxpayers’ money in respect to any future tendering process.

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original correspondence. Please use the contact details provided at the top of this letter in order to request an internal review relating to your original request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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
www.ICO.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

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