

**Reference: 2025-010**

Thank you for your email in which you requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

**I am requesting information about video and animation production contracts and tender exercises conducted by the SFO between 17th January 2022 and 17th January 2025.**

**This request covers all contracts/tenders for:**

- **Live action video production**
- **Animation and motion graphics**
- **Brand/corporate films**
- **Training videos**
- **Documentary content**
- **Social media video content**
- **Educational films**
- **Promotional videos**
- **Event filming**
- **Aerial/drone filming**
- **Interactive video content**
- **Any combination of the above**

**Specifically, I am requesting:**

- 1. Contract Information:**
  - **Names of successful suppliers awarded contracts**
  - **Contract values awarded**
  - **Duration of contracts**
  - **Contract start and end dates**
  - **Brief description of production requirements**
  - **Whether the successful supplier was an incumbent or new supplier**
- 2. Tender Process Details:**
  - **Number of bids received for each tender**
  - **Advertised budget (if different from final contract value)**
  - **Highest and lowest bid values received**
  - **Evaluation criteria weightings used (e.g. quality/price split)**
- 3. Procurement Information:**
  - **Whether any tenders were cancelled or reissued in this period**
  - **If cancelled/reissued, the reasons why (if this can be shared)**
  - **Number of clarification questions received per tender**
  - **Whether contracts were delivered on time and on budget**

### **Response**

The SFO does not hold majority of this information in the format you have requested.

The information we do hold is commercially sensitive and therefore engages section 43 (2) of the FOIA.

Section 43(2) of the FOIA deals with commercial interests and provides that:

*Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).*

#### How the exemption is engaged

Some of the requested information could detriment to the SFO's commercial interests if released by weakening its negotiating position with future suppliers. It could also detriment the commercial interests of the supplier when engaging future clients. As such, this information is exempt from release under section 43(2) of the FOIA.

#### Public interest test

Section 43 of FOIA is a qualified exemption. As such, it requires consideration of whether the public interest in exempting the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing whether the public authority holds the information. More information about exemptions in general and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

We understand the importance of publicising information about the SFO's use of public resources and funding. However, we do not believe that the release of those few information which we hold would add significantly to these factors and therefore feel there is minimal public interest in releasing this material. Further, as outlined above, the SFO is compliant with the reporting requirements across government, which requires the publication of data surrounding procurement processes on the Contracts Finder website: [Contracts Finder - GOV.UK](https://contractsfinder.gov.uk).

We have therefore concluded that the balance of the public interest is in favour of not disclosing the information requested as the commercial interests weigh in favour of not sharing this detail externally.