

Date: 18 November 2024 Our Ref: RFI4919 Tel: 0300 1234 500 Email: <u>infogov@homesengland.gov.uk</u>

By Email Only

Dear

RE: Request for Information – RFI4919

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

I have identified three potential call-off contracts awarded by Homes England, but I can't find details of the framework agreements they were awarded from.

I have attached an Excel file that contains the information I am looking at. The last two columns ("Title of framework used" and "Further framework info") is where I am missing information. Please could you provide the name of the specific framework agreements or DPS agreements used here. If there is any further info which you think would help me locate the framework agreements (e.g., a link to the framework's Contract Finder or FTS listing, the framework provider, or a widely-used reference number such as CCS's RM codes), please use the final column for this.

Please note that I have identified these contracts as possible call-off contracts, so some of them might not be. Some could be, for instance, procured directly (without being called off from a framework agreement), or could be themselves notices of the establishment of a framework agreement. Therefore I would kindly ask you to specify in these incidences what kind of procurement was used in the "Title of framework used" column.

Response

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

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East of Otley - Commercial and Viability Advice

We can confirm that Homes England does not hold the information detailed in your request. To conclude that the information is not held, we have searched with our Investments 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: <u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/1</u>

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. To comply with this duty we are able to confirm that there was no tender and that no framework was used to procure this contract. This was instead a direct award therefore we do not hold any tender related information.

Homes England - Government Campus Training - TNA Training

Homes England DPS - Large Sites Phase 2 Upper Lighthorne Warwickshire

We can 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 and we have quoted section 21 below for ease.

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

Section 21 - Information accessible to applicant by other means.

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)-

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

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(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Advice and Assistance

We have a duty to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Section 16 of the FOIA. We will address each of the contracts in your request in turn.

Homes England - Government Campus Training - TNA Training – The title of the framework used is the CCS Learning and Development Framework and further information can be found on Crown Commercial Service using the below link and the reference RM6145. Please ensure to select both live and expired status.

https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/?&status=Live&page=1

Homes England DPS - Large Sites Phase 2 Upper Lighthorne Warwickshire – The title of the framework used was Homes England Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). We can advise that this was a two-stage competitive procedure, where the first stage is used to select suppliers, who are then invited to bid in the second stage. Further information in relation to the DPS can be found on the links below.

https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/011460-2021

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-delivery-partner-dynamic-purchasing-system-dps

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.

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Information Governance Team Homes England The Lumen 2nd Floor St James Boulevard Newcastle Helix Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5BZ United Kingdom

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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