

7th April 2023

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 1902

Dear 

Your request for information was received on 15th February 2023 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to contract awards.

Please find this information, below and attached:

Contract award document for PJD Safety Supplies Ltd STA9143

See Appendix 1a & Appendix 1b. Contract was awarded through buying orders.

Completed application document and subsequent Approval document for Single Tender Action STA9143

See Appendix 2 which contains application and approval

Complete record of all payments made by BSO in relation to this contract including;

Supplier number

433069



Supplier name

PJD Safety Supplies Ltd

All Invoice numbers and dates paid

Supplier Number	Supplier Name	Invoice Number	Date Paid	Net Amount	Vat Amount	Gross Amount
433069	PJD Safety Supplies Ltd	341693	01/12/2020	5841.00	1168.20	7009.20
433069	PJD Safety Supplies Ltd	340362	24/11/2020	5841.00	1168.20	7009.20
433069	PJD Safety Supplies Ltd	338122	24/11/2020	5841.00	1168.20	7009.20
433069	PJD Safety Supplies Ltd	338121	24/11/2020	5841.00	1168.20	7009.20

Total 28036.80

All Purchase Order numbers and dates

HBE13223 03/11/20

HBE13232 9/11/20

Please note that redactions have been carried out to the attached documents on the grounds of Sections 40 (2) and (3) (a)(i) (*personal information*) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and no public interest test is required. The identification of named individuals and personal contact details constitutes personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and disclosing it would breach the fair processing principle set out in the DPA.

Furthermore, section 43(2) of the FOIA states 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).*"

Under the FOIA, section 43 (commercial interests) is a qualified exemption. This means that even if information falls within an exemption, a public authority is under a duty to consider whether disclosure should nevertheless be made in the public interest.

A copy of the public interest test, as applied by BSO, is provided for your information below:

The Public Interest Test

In determining whether or not the public interest in withholding information outweighs the public interest in disclosing information, BSO considered the factors favouring disclosure and the factors against disclosure. The application of the Public Interest Test is set out below.

Exemption claimed in respect of Section 43(2) Commercial Interest	
In favour of disclosure of information	In favour of not disclosing information
1	Expenditure of public money requires openness, transparency and accountability.
1	Disclosure may restrict the number of companies willing to work with the public sector for fear of losing a commercial advantage through the release of detailed pricing.
2	Disclosing information could feasibly aid the public in understanding public authority contracting arrangements during the Covid 19 Pandemic
2	Disclosure may deter suppliers from bidding for future opportunities. This in turn may lead to HSC not being able to attract the optimum service providers which will ultimately impact on the quality of service provided to the public.
	3
	The documentation contains detailed pricing. The release of such detailed costing (or the information which would allow it to be calculated) may give commercial advantage to competitors if released into the public domain.

BSO is aware of the importance in ensuring transparency as to how public money is spent. BSO therefore believes that in keeping with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Decision Notice issued by the Commissioner on 10 January 2011 entitled "Department of Health" reference: FS50303047, it is appropriate to issue high level information only. The release of high-level information only, i.e. the total value of order/contract/DAC would be appropriate to protect the supplier's pricing strategy.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Bailey".

Karen Bailey
Chief Executive