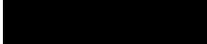


May 14th 2018

BY EMAIL

Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Our Ref: FOI 876

Dear 

Your request for information was received on April 24th 2018 by the Business Services Organisation (BSO) and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

BSO can advise that the total number of contracts issued by that BSO PaLS between 1 September 2015 and 31 March 2018 was 2418.

The Freedom of Information Act (2000) states that a public body, such as the BSO, may apply charges in order to provide information to the public. If a public body spends more than £450 on staff time in complying with a request, then charges may be applied; this figure is based on an hourly rate of £25 over 18 hours. Please refer to sections 12 and 13 of The Act, and sections 3 and 4 of The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 ('The Fees Regulations') for further information.

The BSO has estimated that it will take 24.5 hours to comply with your request for the information requested in points 2- 5. This equates to £612.50 - £450.00 therefore £172.50.

This information is contained within tender/quotation documents. It can only be obtained by a visual check of each tender/quotation file. This will involve locating, retrieving and extracting the information from records. A sample in accordance with ICO Guidance has been selected.

We are unable to continue processing your request until the fee is paid. If you wish the BSO to continue to process your request you should pay the fee within 3 months (i.e. 10/08/2018). If the BSO does not receive payment of the fee by this date, the request will be considered closed.

If you narrow the scope of your request, we may be able to provide the information free of charge because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so. For instance, you may wish to narrow your request by being more specific



about what information you wish to obtain, including dates or period of time relevant to the information required. As suggested in response to your previous request (FOI855) a representative 6 month period may provide you with the information you require.

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.

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,



Liam McIvor
Chief Executive