

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/22/177

Facilities Management

Information Requested:

Office and Building Cleaning

- 1. Supplier/Provider of the services – Solo Group Services**
- 2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above.**

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or
- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of both Cardiff University and the UHB. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against disclosure: It has been established that releasing the information sought under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with suppliers. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in suppliers not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could



have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

3. **A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.** – Cleaning and janitorial services.
4. **The number of sites the contract covers** – 1 site.
5. **The start date of the contract** – March 2020
6. **The end date of the contract** – March 2023
7. **The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period.** – 3 years
8. **Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.** - Business Manager – Capital, Estates and Facilities

After considering your request, the UHB believes that the data requested is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

General Waste

1. **Supplier/Provider of the services** – Cardiff Council
2. **Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above.**
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3. **A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.** – Collection and disposal of all non-hazardous domestic and dry mixed recycling waste.
4. **The number of sites the contract covers** – 44 sites
5. **The start date of the contract** – March 2015
6. **The end date of the contract** – August 2022



7. The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period. – Extension period between August 2021 and August 2022.

8. Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address. – Interim Head of Estates Operations.

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Food Service Contract

The UHB does not hold this information. Under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that all catering services delivered in house.

Lifts

1. Supplier/Provider of the services – OTIS

2. Total Annual Spend – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above.

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3. **A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.** – Routine servicing and breakdown of all lifts within the UHB.
4. **The number of sites the contract covers** – 7
5. **The start date of the contract** – May 2018
6. **The end date of the contract** – May 2023
7. **The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period.** – 5 years
8. **Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.** – Interim Head of Estates Operations.

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Laundry Services

1. **Supplier/Provider of the services** – NHS Service Provider, covered by SLA.
2. **Total Annual Spend** – The spend should only relate to each of the service contracts listed above. – Commercially sensitive.

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the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

3. **A description of the services provided under this contract please includes information if other services are included under the same contract.** – Provision of Laundry Services.
4. **The number of sites the contract covers** – 7
5. **The start date of the contract** – July 2021
6. **The end date of the contract** – None
7. **The duration of the contract, please include information on any extensions period.** – Rolling
8. **Who within the organisation is responsible for each of these contracts? name, Job Title, contact number and email address.** – Interim Head of Facilities

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