

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013620/H

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 09 December 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013620/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/11/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information request for information related to the organisation's contracts register, procurement strategy document, and contact details. Please find the detailed requests below:

1. Contract Register Request:

I am seeking the full and entirety of the organisation's contract register or database. The register should include the following columns/headings or something similar:

- **Contract Title:** *The title of the contract, e.g., "IT Services Contract".*
- **Supplier Name:** *The name of the organisation providing the goods or services.*
- **Estimated Spend (Total or Annual):** **[Radio Button]** *Whether the estimated spend is for the entire contract period or annually.*
- **Contract Duration:** *The initial term of the contract in months.*
- **Total Contract Period:** *The total duration of the contract, including any potential extensions.*
- **Contract Extensions:** *The number of months for any potential extensions.*
- **Contract Start Date:** *The date the contract officially begins.*
- **Contract Expiry Date:** *The date the initial contract period ends.*
- **Contract Review Date:** *The date on which the contract should be reviewed for renewal or extension.*
- **Contract Description:** *A detailed description of the contract, this could include the purpose, scope, and key terms and conditions.*
- **Contact Owner:** *The name, job title, main contact number, and email address of the individual responsible for the contract.*
- **Contract Notes:** *Any additional relevant information, such as specific terms and conditions, risk assessments, or performance metrics.*
- **Department:** *The department within your organisation that the contract is associated with.*
- **Contract Award Date:** *The date the contract was awarded.*
- **Participating Organisations:** *Other organisations involved in the procurement process.*

- **Procurement Category:** The category of the procurement, e.g., IT, Facilities, or Professional Services. [I will send you a list of categories]
 - **Framework Reference:** The reference number of procurement framework.
 - **Central Purchasing Body:** The organisation responsible for the overall procurement.
 - **Tender Reference:** The reference number of the tender notice.
 - **CPV Codes/Pro-Class/eClass:** Standard classification codes used to categorise public procurement. [Radio Button] On select they should be able to select the classes.
- If any of the headings within your contract register has not been provided, please state this within your response.
- Please provide the contract's register file in Excel format.

2. Procurement Strategy Document Request:

- Can the organisation provide a full version of their Procurement Strategy for the fiscal year 2024-2025?
 - If the Procurement Strategy is a strategic direction (2022-2025) instead of an annual plan, please provide an update document for 2023-2024. If an update cannot be provided, please provide information on when an update is planned to be published.
- We require the full document. If any parts of this document have been removed, please state this within your response.

3. Contact Details Request:

- Provide contact details of the person responsible for API or data sharing, including [Name, Job Title, Telephone, Email Address].
- Provide contact details of the person responsible for the actual contract's register, including [Name, Job Title, Telephone, Email Address].

IMPORTANT:

1. If the organisation has a CRM system or a similar system, ensure there is a facility to download and extract contract data.
2. If providing a weblink to a portal, ensure that all contracts are included, as some organisations may only upload a small portion of their contracts.
3. For organisations planning to make an exemption around spend, clarify that the spend information requested is an overall figure, and a complete breakdown is not required.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm that the information requested is held by GMP, however, I am not required to supply it because exemptions apply.

The exemption applicable to the information is **Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means**. This is because the information is already freely available at:

<https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/contracts>

Any other contract information that is not published on the Bluelight website has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement**

Section 31 requires Harm and Public Interest Test, which can be found below.

Harm

The release of some contractual information specifically around contract description, supplier name and product used by Greater Manchester Police, could reveal capabilities available to the force and consequently give important information to those with criminal intent. The release of this information combined with detailed information readily available on the internet, would allow criminals to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our capabilities. They would be able to use information in planning terrorist and criminal acts.

The release of this information would therefore impact on the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of terrorists and criminals and increase the fear of crime in the community Greater Manchester Police seeks to serve.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in knowing how public money is being spent in ensuring value for money both at the point of purchase, and also in respect of what those resources are to be used for.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

There is a strong public interest in ensuring Greater Manchester Police's effective law enforcement capability. Disclosure of supplier identities and product information together with contract descriptions would mean that individuals could research details about capabilities available to the force. This may allow terrorists and criminals the opportunity to assess strengths and any possible weaknesses of these capabilities. This would compromise law enforcement which could lead to more crime being committed and individuals being placed at risk. This information may also be used by criminals/terrorists in combination with other information they have gathered to try and disrupt law enforcement.

Balancing Test

It is my view that the public safety from non-disclosure is of greater importance than the advantage of public confidence from the disclosure of this information. Greater Manchester Police will not disclose information that could compromise the future law enforcement role of the force.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.