



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001209
Date 08 June 2017

Goods and Services Procurement

Request:

Please supply me with the following statistics for your Council for Goods and Services procurement where 'goods' are tangible products such as pens or computers, generally known as supplies; 'works' are "the construction or demolition of buildings, both residential and non-residential, repair to the fabric of these buildings, construction of roads, bridges, tunnels, and the installation of gas, electric, and plumbing services" and 'services' are the provision of an intangible product such as care or refuse collection, whether it is carried out internally or externally. The following payments should be INCLUDED: Goods, Services, Works, Care, other non-Local Authority public bodies (e.g. NHS, HM Courts), outside Borough schools, colleges, universities. The following payments should be EXCLUDED: foster carer payments; payments to pension funds; payments to other local authorities for placement of clients or other non-commercial activities; payments to individuals for expenses, insurance settlements, council tax refunds, NNDR refunds; Benefits payments personal budgets, transfer payments and investments.

The figures should cover (unless stated) the period 1st April 2016 to the 31st March 2017.

1. Total value of Goods and Services acquired by the council from third party suppliers?

The Council publishes all spend information at:

<http://data.wolverhampton.gov.uk/View>

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*

- (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to this data excludes all care related spend as this would have to be manually sorted to identify commercial, non-commercial spend and is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

2. The total number of invoices for goods and services paid by the council during the period 1st April 2016 to the 31st March 2017 whether or not the supplier was contracted to the council or the holder of a framework contract?
As per question 1.
3. Council's net revenue budget?
The Council's net revenue budget for 2016/17 is £217.4 million
4. Cost of procurement management (Total cost of procurement function (staff salaries, on-costs, share of central recharges, dedicated system costs, contracted third party support costs) for a given period)?
£907,693
5. The total number of suppliers (contracted or not) that received a payment for Goods or services?
As per question 1.
6. The total value of Goods and Services spent with suppliers who are defined as a Small and Medium Enterprise according to the DfTI definition?
We do not have records of which suppliers are classed as Small and Medium Enterprise
7. Total population of council's area?
We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our website via the following link:

<http://www.wolverhamptoninprofile.org.uk/>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the

exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

8. The total value of third party spend acquired by electronic orders (i.e. over the internet, it does not include procurement cards, telephone or fax orders)?
The spend information is not recorded in the way requested.
9. The total number of contracts held by the council as at the 31st March 2017?
We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our website via the following link:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11659&p=0>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

10. The total number of contract managers named on the council contract register as at 31 March 2017?
See question 9.
11. The total number of contracts held by the council as at the 31st March 2017 with formalised and active contract management (Formalised contract management is viewed as regular, recorded and communicated processes for reviewing progress, issues, performance, outputs and outcomes including remedial action linked to contract terms by a responsible individual or individuals or teams that is active)?
This is not currently recorded.
12. Total Number of Contracts awarded by the Council?
See question 9.
13. Total number of contract awards by the council that have been challenged by an unsuccessful tenderer?
None
14. The total number of contracts held by the council as at the 31st March 2017 with ongoing improvement clauses (improved performance over the life of the contract or reduced pricing)?
Your request for information has now been considered. Unfortunately, City of Wolverhampton Council cannot supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

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- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to the total number of contracts held by the Council as at 31st March 2017 with ongoing improvement clauses is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into every contract. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).