

Redactions

Elements of these contracts have been redacted under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, Appendix 2 – Specifications, Appendix 3 – Contractor’s Technical Response and Appendix 4 – Contractor’s Pricing Schedule response.

Section 43(2) FOIA Exemption – Commercial Interests

Exemption

The withheld information is exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which applies to information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including public authorities).

Nature of Sensitivity

The redacted sections include detailed technical specifications, cost structures, and supplier methodologies. These elements:

- Are not publicly available;
- Provide a competitive edge to suppliers;
- Were shared by tenderers on a confidential basis.

Prejudice Test

Disclosure would, or would be likely to:

1. Undermine suppliers’ commercial position by revealing pricing models, cost projections, or proprietary methodologies;
2. Harm future procurement competitiveness by enabling rivals to replicate or undercut bids.

Public Interest Consideration

While transparency in procurement promotes accountability and value for money, the public interest also demands protecting sensitive commercial data to avoid discouraging market participation and undermining competitive tendering.

On balance, withholding these specific details maintains a fair marketplace and supports future government procurement outcomes, outweighing the public interest in disclosing them.

Additionally, personal data of some individuals has been redacted.

Section 40(2) FOIA Exemption – Personal Data

Exemption

The redacted sections are exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption covers personal data that relates to individuals other than the

requester and cannot be disclosed because it would breach one or more of the data protection principles under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Nature of the Personal Data

The information removed includes:

- Names and contact details of contract managers, technical experts, or support staff;
- Signatures and direct identifiers.

Data Protection Assessment

Disclosure would not be lawful, fair, and transparent—key requirements under Article 5(1)(a) UK GDPR—because:

1. The individuals did not expect their personal data to be made publicly available through the contract;
2. Publication would infringe their privacy rights without lawful basis.

Public Interest Consideration

While transparency in procurement matters, the public interest is outweighed by the need to uphold individuals' privacy rights.

- Public naming of staff is not necessary for understanding contract scope or value;
- Disclosing personal identifiers risks privacy harm without offering significant public benefit.

Therefore, withholding this data balances FOIA's transparency aims with data protection obligations.