



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
26 August 2021
Our ref: 7559436

Thank you for your request received on 11 August 2021, for the following information:

In relation to the Interpreting and Translation contract awarded in May 2021, please send me:

- the name and total price quoted by the winning bidder
- a copy of the winning tender for the above contract
- a list of all companies who tendered for this contract
- is there is an exclusivity clause, which would prevent the Council from utilising additional language services from other suppliers while in contract with your existing provider?

I believe under the terms of the FOI Act 2000 I should receive this information within 20 working days from today's date. I am happy to receive the information by email.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds the information you requested.

However, we consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below/attached.

In relation to the Interpreting and Translation contract awarded in May 2021, please send me:

- ***the name and total price quoted by the winning bidder***

Winning Bidder: thebigword Group Ltd

Price submitted by winning bidder is considered commercially sensitive, however we are able to state that the estimated annual value of the contract is £172,600 per annum over the anticipated five-year contract term (3+1+1).

- ***a copy of the winning tender for the above contract***

This information is considered commercially sensitive.

- a list of all companies who tendered for this contract

This information is considered commercially sensitive.

- is there is an exclusivity clause, which would prevent the Council from utilising additional language services from other suppliers while in contract with your existing provider?

No

I believe under the terms of the FOI Act 2000 I should receive this information within 20 working days from today's date. I am happy to receive the information by email.

We consider that the qualified exemption set out in Section 43 (Prejudicial to commercial interests) subsection applies to the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the interest in favour of disclosure.

Factors in favour of disclosure

- The council's commitment to transparency
- Public interest in the expenditure of public funds and award of contracts

Factors in favour of withholding

- The overall expenditure by the council on this contract has been released meeting transparency requirements
- By disclosing the unit costs of bids and bidders and the winning bid the competitiveness of these companies would be undermined
- The council's ability to negotiate the best deals would also be undermined which would be detrimental to the efficient expenditure of public money
- The information was provided with the expectation of confidence which is protected in law

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.