

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale NW9 4EW
13 March 2023
Our ref: 9237466

Thank you for your request received on 21 February 2023, for the following information:

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to your temporary agency usage, the details I require are:

- *Your Current Model of Recruitment E.G. is it a PSL (Preferred Supplier List), Neutral or master Vend**
- *The End Date of the recruitment models contract listed above**
- *All the Supplier Names who supplied temporary staff to yourself in the dates between 06 April 2021 and 05 April 2022 (or a recent year if that is easier)**
- * The Actual spend value each Supplier in the above period**
- *The Dates the above where work/Invoiced & paid (If available)**
- *The area the above was Expensed/costed too (If available)**
- *The Purpose of spend (If available)**
- *The Category Internal Name (If available)**
- *Any Extras that may be on record (If available)**

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 believe that the exemptions detailed below apply to some/all of this information and this is withheld. Please see the Refusal Notice below.

****Your Current Model of Recruitment E.G. is it a PSL (Preferred Supplier List), Neutral or master Vend***

Neutral Vendor

****The End Date of the recruitment models contract listed above –***

1 October 2023 (with a 2 year extension option)

****All the Supplier Names who supplied temporary staff to yourself in the dates between 06 April 2021 and 05 April 2022 (or a recent year if that is easier)***

Matrix is the neutral vendor, all agencies are then via matrix

*** *The Actual spend value each Supplier in the above period –***

£17.9 million per annum under the Matrix contract.

[Matrix SCM - Temporary Agency Staff Contract | Barnet Open Data](#)

[2022-23 Agency Expenditure | Barnet Open Data](#)

See Refusal Notice below.

****The Dates the above where work/Invoiced & paid (If available) –***

All year

****The area the above was Expensed/costed too (If available) –***

N/A

****The Purpose of spend (If available) –***

Temporary Staff

****The Category Internal Name (If available) –***

N/A

****Any Extras that may be on record (If available) –***

N/A

Refusal Notice

S43 – Rates of pay of contractors

Because of the commercial nature of this process and the subsequent variations in rates of pay, we have concluded that this information is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) because the disclosure of this information would be prejudicial to the third party's and the London Borough of Barnet's commercial interests. This is a qualified or non-absolute exemption and the public interest test applies.

We recognise the public interest in the disclosure of this information. These factors include the importance of transparency in the decision-making process relating to the spending of public money to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in an open and honest way. It is also important for the public to see taxpayers' money being used effectively and public authorities getting value for money.

However, the disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of these Agencies who contract their services to Matrix SCM if details of spend is disclosed.

We believe that it is important to withhold this information to prevent prejudice to our contractor's future bargaining position. In addition, and as a consequence to the potential prejudice caused to their Agencies, there is a strong risk that the Council's bargaining position for the future would be prejudiced because contractors and suppliers may become reluctant to enter into further free and frank negotiations.

For these reasons we consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.

