

## Public Interest Test

Request for FOI-0624-887 Information	
FOIA Exemption S.43 (2) – Commercial Interests	
<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a clear public interest test in the work of government being closely examined to encourage the discharging of public functions in the most efficient and effective way;</li> <li>• There is an important public interest in the work of public bodies being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and to protect the public purse;</li> <li>• There is a public interest test in disclosing information about transparency in the spending of public money and that public bodies are getting value for money when entering into contracts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The procurement process must be seen to be fair and that commercial interests of the suppliers of services are not unduly prejudiced by the release of commercially sensitive information. It is important to maintain the confidence of our suppliers in order to achieve best value for the tax payer;</li> <li>• The pricing aspects outlined in the existing contract may be construed as a “commercial interest” in that it is a strategy owned and developed by the contractors. If the pricing was made available to competitors in the marketplace it would undermine the commercial interests of the contractors when bidding for other contracts by reducing their competitive edge;</li> <li>• To reveal the details of the cost would seriously undermine our ability to negotiate the best value for money for the public purse on future contracts as the rates and methodology are still current;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conclusion: there are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release.</b></p> <p><b>PIT Members:</b>            Governance Team            Head of Governance</p> <p><b>Date of Public Interest Test:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024</p>	