

**Freedom of Information Request****Ref: UHB 17-186**

Date 4 August 2017



Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

**Please can the STP provide the following information regarding external management support, under the FOI act:**

- 1) the name(s) of any external company or organisation which has provided management support to the STP to date**

There were no external advisors used in producing the local STP submission. At an early stage in the process, leading to the development of the local STP, there was one contractor commissioned to provide consultancy advice. We are not disclosing the name of this firm, as this is commercially sensitive information. **Section 43** of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. Therefore; we are withholding this information at this time.

- 2) the total amount of money each external company or organisation has received from the STP to provide this management support**

As per the above response, the company used to provide consultancy advice in the early stage of the process, were paid £243,009.

- 3) a description of the nature of the management support that has been provided by each external company or organisation**

Please see response to question one.

**Public Interest Test (Section 43):**

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

**Public interest considerations favouring disclosure**

There is a public interest in disclosing information to facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.

There is a public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly.

There is also a public interest in ensuring that this is competition for public sector contracts.

**Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information**

Against disclosure is that the release of the requested information is commercially sensitive in that disclosing this information would reduce the number of companies willing to do business with the public sector, leading to reduced competition and increased costs.

Against disclosure is the public interest is the potential that by releasing the requested information would or would prejudice someone's commercial interests i.e. damage a company's reputation or the confidence that customers, suppliers or investors may have in a company.

We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the requested information, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information. We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Sections 43 of the Freedom of Information Act at this time.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary  
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.