ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2026-0131

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. Copy of successful tender.
2. Final pricing of successful bidder.
3. Expiry date of the awarded contract.
4. Approximate date that the tender will be reissued towards the end of the current contract period.
5. How many bidders submitted responses?
6. Name of all bidders who submitted responses.
7. Rank of all bidders who submitted responses I would prefer to receive the information electronically.
8. Can you outline how you intend to re compete this contract ?

DoF response

The department has completed its search in relation to the above questions. I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested however some information has been withheld as it falls within an exemption, further details are provided below.

1. A copy of the successful tender is being withheld because it is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43(2) protects information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

   Disclosure would be likely to harm the supplier's business reputation or the confidence that customers have in them and weaken their position in a competitive environment by revealing sensitive information or information that is potentially useful in a negotiating position. Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test (please see – Annex C attached).

2. A copy of the final pricing of the successful bidder is being withheld because it is exempt under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43(2) protects information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Disclosure would be likely to harm the supplier's business reputation or the confidence that customers have in them and weaken their position in a competitive environment by revealing sensitive information or information that is potentially useful in a negotiating position. Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test (please see – Annex C attached).

3. The initial period of the Framework Arrangement is due to expire on 1 December 2026. The Arrangement includes an optional extension period of two years, which, if exercised, would extend the expiry date to 1 December 2028.

4. No date has been set for reissuing the tender. The Framework includes an optional extension period which may be utilised. If a retender is required, an indicative timeframe is that a competition may be published on eTendersNI approximately three to six months before the new contract is due to commence.

5. One supplier submitted a tender.

6. The name of the bidder who submitted a response is withheld under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act which exempts information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to endanger the safety of any individual.

   Section 38(1)(b) is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test (please see – Annex D attached).

7. The sole supplier to tender was ranked first.

8. A procurement strategy has not yet been mapped out, and therefore no decision has been made yet. Open procedure tenders with an estimated value greater than £50,000 are openly advertised on eTendersNI (https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps/home.do).