

Annex B

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST					
Request Ref:	DoF/2026-0434	Requester:		Address:	
Request summary:	DoF 4957638 – Pan Government Framework for Ground Investigation Works 2023 (Revised), CPDC-789				
Information details:	Exemption applied	Disclosure	Non-disclosure		
		(Please complete both columns to show all factors have been considered)			
1.Redacted copies of the quality/technical submissions made by: ○ Causeway Geotech Limited; and ○ Tetra Tech Consulting (NI) Limited. 2.The individual and consensus quality scores awarded to each successful tenderer, including the scores for each quality question or sub-criterion. 3.The evaluators' recorded comments, including identified strengths, weaknesses, reservations and reasons for the scores awarded. 4.Copies of the successful tenderers' social value methodology, environmental	Section 43(2) Commercial Interests - Information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).	• To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority. • There is a public interest in disclosing information about public procurement to promote transparency in the spending of public money, demonstrate value for money and show that procurement processes are conducted openly and honestly.	• The requested information details tenderers' management structures, resources, reporting arrangements, quality controls, programme management methodologies, social value methodologies and environmental strategy. Releasing tenderers' quality submissions, scores, evaluators comments and social value submission may allow other organisations to replicate this approach, thus impacting the Department's ability to effectively assess future tender responses and determine value for money. • Disclosing the detailed narrative of a tenderer's response to a quality submission describing their management structures, resources, reporting arrangements, quality controls and programme management methodologies, may cause commercial harm to them. Their commercial approach could be replicated by others and put them at a disadvantage to competitors in future competitions. There would be a negative impact on their commercial value if the detailed narrative of their management structures, resources, reporting arrangements, quality controls and programme management methodologies became public knowledge. • There is a public interest in ensuring that tenderers can compete on an equitable basis for public sector contracts, and the disclosure of commercially sensitive information could compromise the ability of tenderers to do so. • The disclosure of this information would undermine the tenderers' confidence in applying for future public sector tender competitions. There is a risk that tenderers could be discouraged from taking part in future competitions if they have concerns that commercially sensitive		

strategy and contract delivery methodology submitted as part of the competition.			information will be released. A reduction in confidence amongst tenderers to bid for public sector competitions would reduce the already restricted market and create difficulties for the public sector in achieving value for money in such competitions. • Disclosing such information may also negatively impact on the department's reputation.
---	--	--	---

PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION: After weighing up the competing public interest considerations under exemption S43(2) commercial interests, I have concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in full disclosure of this request.

Signed: Stewart Heaney
Date: 18th August 2026