

Request

Provide all details of the 'updated assessment of project costs' for the Mourne Gateway Project, which was carried out by the Construction and procurement Delivery team within the Department for Finance on behalf of Department for Economy and Tourism NI, and provided to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council on the 13th November 2023.'

DoF response

The department has completed its search in relation to the question above.

I can confirm the department holds the information requested. However, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) is currently undertaking a procurement exercise to appoint an Integrated Consultancy Team for the Mourne Gateway Project. The disclosure of the information you have requested would, or would be likely to, weaken the position of NMDDC as Contracting Authority and impact the integrity, legality, and fairness of the competition by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to competitors in an uncontrolled process.

Therefore, at this current time, the department is exempting this information under Section 43 (2) of the FOI Act. Section 43 (2) exempts information where disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Please see the Public Interest Test attached as a separate document (Annex B), which is weighed in the favour of non-disclosure.