

REASONS FOR APPLYING SECTION 43 (2) EXEMPTION

Ref No.	DoF/2021-0441	Requester:	E-mail Address:
Information	Exemption Applied	Reasons for Disclosure	Reasons for Non-Disclosure
<p>1. The costs to run each Inspector Grade II (Food, Agriculture, equine promotion board).</p>	<p>Section 43(2) – Prejudice to commercial interests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To show compliance with the FOI Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority; • The public has a right to know the information; and • It would facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money. 	<p>For current and future requests;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong public interest in maintaining the integrity of procurement exercises because it is fundamental that these exercises are seen as being fair and equal to all parties, thereby ensuring that prospective bidders are not discouraged by fear that by taking part in and winning one such exercise, at their considerable expense, their competitive advantage will thereafter be lost for a substantial period of time. • The release of this information could jeopardise this company's future position, which would cause a detrimental knock on effect on the market place, and would potentially limit the choices available to public authorities, including the Department. This would potentially threaten the quality of services available. The Department considers that it is not in the public interest to do anything to undermine the competitive nature of the procurement process, and the disclosure of key information, as has been requested, could have that affect. The Department believes that the consequences of releasing the information are serious and the likelihood of this occurring is high.
<p>In balancing where the public interest lies, the Department contends that public interest considerations against disclosure are predominant, and the public interest is better served by non-disclosure of the amounts paid to consultants to develop and deliver internal and external recruitment competitions, thereby ensure fair competition for future public procurement contracts.</p>			
<p>Signed: (DECISION MAKER) Date: 27/10/2021</p>			