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Request Ref: 2827

FOI Request dated **02/03/2023** as follows –

I would like the organisation to provide me with the following departmental documents around ICT and corporate procurement.

Many organisations within your region have different document title names:

1. 2023/24 IT Department Documents;- these types of documents have detailed information on the department's future plans and strategies. These documents include:

ICT Strategy/Plan, ICT Department Plan, ICT Financial Plan

2. ICT Org Chart ;- with names and job titles

3. Corporate Procurement Strategy that covers 2023/24 and more.

For all the documents I have requested, please provide me with the 2023/24 documents, I only want to only receive documents that are live and valid. If the document is a strategic plan (e.g. 2020-2025) that covers a set number of years, please provide me with the 2023 version.

Response

1. ICT Documents
   a. Strategy/Plan – Information not held. We do not have a current strategy document, and currently no work is underway to create one.
   b. IT Plan – Information not held. Due to recent senior structural changes we do not have a plan for 2023. Planning will begin for 2024 in the latter quarter of 2023.
2. Please find attached.

1c & 3 – With regards to questions 1c and 3 we deem this part of your request to be commercially sensitive and we therefore apply a partial Section 43 (2).

This part of your request we have exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

Section 43 is a class-based qualified exemption and is therefore subject to a Public Interest test.

Public interest considerations Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosing information regarding future IT corporate procurement strategies and financial plans would ensure the University are being open and transparent with the public. The disclosure would encourage

public debate and increase public awareness on this subject matter. It would also allow the public to see where the public funds for the University are being spent.

Factors against disclosure

Disclosing future financial plans and corporate procurement strategies requested at this time would prejudice the internal decision-making process, as the future plans are currently undergoing consultation and approval, to disclose the requested information to the public at this stage would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the University.

The University recognises the need for transparency. However, this must be balanced against the public interest in allowing the University to protect its commercial information and not place itself at a disadvantage in the competitive market in which it operates.

Balance test

Despite there being an identifiable public interest in the University being open and transparent, the interests of the University may be jeopardised if information relating to sensitive commercial information about future IT procurement and financial plans are disclosed. The community would also be impacted as costs to the University could be driven up by the lack of competition due to companies refusing to do business with University's that disclose commercially sensitive information. If this information were to be disclosed, this could cause harm between the University of Hull and its service provider(s). Having weighed up all of the factors outlined above, on balance the argument for disclosing this information is not made out and therefore it is in the public interest to withhold this information from disclosure.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the University, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request

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