

Request Reference: 3286

FOI Request dated 25/11/2024 -

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding information related to the organisation's gas and electricity contracts, as well as details on the energy management system. Please acknowledge this request within the legally required timeframe.

****Gas and Electricity Contracts: ****

1. Energy Provider
2. Annual Spend for each provider for the past 3 financial years.
3. Contract Duration (Including any extensions)
4. Contract start date
5. Contract Expiry Date
6. Contract Review Dates
7. Contact details of the person responsible, including job title
8. Total Consumption of Gas, please provide me with the latest figure in cubic metres.
9. Total Consumption of Electricity (NHH), please provide me with the latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.
10. Total Consumption of Electricity (HH), please provide me with the latest figure in kWh for the past 3 financial years.

Energy Management System Contract(s) - Contract(s) relating to the organisation's energy management system. An energy management system (EMS) is a system of computer-aided tools used by operators of electric utility grids to monitor, control, and optimise the performance of the generation or transmission system.

If the organisation does not have an Energy Management System, please confirm when this will be implemented. It would be great if you mention the tentative date/month.

Energy Management System

1. Provider name
2. Annual Spend
3. Contract Duration (Including any extensions)
4. Contract Expiry Date
5. Contract start date
6. Contract Review Date
7. Contract Description – A description of the services provided.
8. Brand of the software
9. Total number of meter points for electricity:
 - a. Non-Half Hourly (NHH) meter points
 - b. Half Hourly (HH) meter points
10. Total number of Gas meter points

11. *Total number of meter points for specialist gases and liquids*
12. *Contact details of the person responsible, including job title*

Response

Please note the University of Hull has an energy management system but not one which has the facility to “monitor, control, and optimise the performance of the generation or transmission system”. However, details of the EMS used by the University to monitor consumption of energy it consumes given below.

****Gas and Electricity Contracts: ****

1. Contract with The Energy Consortium, energy supplied by EDF and Corona
- 2.. Combined gas and elec spend over the last 3 years £24,306,480
3. Contract in place until Oct 2025 with rolling renewal
4. Oct 2022
5. as per Q4
6. as per Q4
7. Andrew Squire, Sustainability Manager (Please note, the staff named above are exercising their right to object to processing contained in article 21 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. This right is exercised here with specific reference to not having their contact information used for marketing purposes.)
8. Information not held in requested format.
- 9.. Information not held in requested format
10. Information not held in requested format

Energy Management System

1. Systemslink
2. Section 43 (2) Commercial Interests applied *(please see below)
3. rolling 1 year renewal
4. June 2025
5. It has been in place for > 5 years
6. June 2025
7. Storage of utilities consumption for individually billed sites along with consumption details from direct read sub-meters. System allows for comparison of usage and comparison of direct read vs invoiced consumption.
8. Systemslink
9. Total number of meter points for electricity:
 - a. 33 invoiced meter points
 - b. 9 invoiced meter points
10. 28 invoiced meter points + c30 sub-meter points
11. None
12. Andrew Squire, Sustainability Manager (Please note, the staff named above are exercising their right to object to processing contained in article 21 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. This right is exercised here with specific reference to not having their contact information used for marketing purposes.)

* 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 the annual spend of the University's Energy Management System Provider 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 the information requested is likely to damage the relationship between the University and the service provider(s). In turn, this could prejudice the commercial interests of the service provider(s), especially in cases where there may be a limited number of suppliers in the market. Making a disclosure could identify information which has been specifically obtained through negotiation between the University and the service provider(s), thus prejudicing the University position in future negotiations.

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 such as the cost of the University's Energy Management System Provider. 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 email acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Please be aware that Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made with the intention of furthering commercial interests, such as selling goods or services or gaining a competitive advantage over potential suppliers, are outside the intended scope of FOI. Using FOI for gaining a commercial advantage over others is not in line with the purpose of the Act and provides minimal or no benefit to the public. ICO guidance sets out that: "The public interest here means the public good, not what is of interest to the public, and not the private interests of the requester."

To assist you on this occasion and for future reference, you may find the following information helpful:

- ***If you are interested in becoming a supplier, please see our webpage: Buyer Profile*** (<https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/more/supplying-our-university/buyer-profile#:~:text=Applying%20to%20be%20a%20Supplier%2FContractor%20to%20the%20University&text=To%20let%20us%20know%20about,not%20telephone%20the%20Procurement%20Office.>)
- ***We suggest you view the University's E-Tendering Website*** (<https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/more/supplying-our-university/procurement>) ***and the Contracts Finder (government website):*** <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> ***for information about contracts awarded/due for tender.***
- ***For all procurement enquiries, see*** <https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/more/supplying-our-university/procurement>