

Official

Ref: FOI-241

Sent via email only: [REDACTED]

19 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

1. Thank you for your email of 9 September 2019 in which you requested information from UK Anti-Doping ('UKAD') under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Your request was for information relating to UKAD's finance, procurement and invoicing systems. Specifically, your request was as follows:

*'Please may you provide the information for the following systems?*

1. *Finance system:*

- a) *Who is your current provider?*
- b) *When does the contract expire, and do you have extension options?*
- c) *What is the value of the contract?*
- d) *What modules do you use e.g. general ledger?*
- e) *What is your budget?*
- f) *When did the contract start?*

2. *Procurement system:*

- a) *Who is your current provider?*
- b) *When does the contract expire, and do you have extension options?*
- c) *What is the value of the contract?*
- d) *What is your budget?*
- e) *When did the contract start?*

3. *Invoicing:*

- a) *Do you have an electronic invoicing system in place?*
- b) *If so, who is the current service provider of this system?*
- c) *When does this contract expire and is there extension options?*
- d) *What is the value of the contract?*
- e) *How many invoices are processed annually?'*

## Summary of Response

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2. UKAD is disclosing the information you have requested in parts 1 a), 1 b), 1 d), 1 f), 2 and 3 of your request.
3. UKAD is not disclosing the information requested in parts 1 c) and 1 e) of your request. The detail of the basis for this response is set out below.

## Parts 1 a), 1 b), 1 d), 1 f), 2 and 3 of your request

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4. UKAD confirms that it holds the information requested and provides a response to your request via the table below:

Part	Information held
1 a)	The current provider is The Access Group ('TAG')
1 b)	The annual software and maintenance support licences are purchased on an annual basis. The current licences are purchased to 31 March 2020.
1 d)	The following modules are used: Sales Ledger; Purchase Ledger; General Ledger; Project Ledger; Cash Management; Asset Management; Digital Tax; Task Centre; Web Service
1 f)	The contract started on 1 April 2019
2 a) to e)	UKAD does not have a current contract for a procurement system and there is no budget in place for such a system.
3 a) to d)	UKAD does not have a current electronic invoicing system in place. This service is included as part of UKAD's current financial management system
3 e)	The number of invoices processed varies each financial year. There were 441 sales ledger invoices processed during the 2018 financial year (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019).

## Parts 1 c) and 1 e) of your request

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5. UKAD confirms that it holds the information requested. However, we are withholding this information under the exemption provided in section 43 of the Act on the grounds that releasing the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both UKAD and a third party ('TAG').
6. Section 43(2) provides as follows:

*Information is exempt information 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).*

7. UKAD has concluded that information about the budget for, and cost of, its financial management system contract is exempt from disclosure because to do so would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both UKAD and TAG.
8. This is because revealing such commercially sensitive information to TAG's competitors would be likely to place TAG at a disadvantage in future negotiations with both UKAD and other organisations. Disclosing the company's pricing structure, either directly or indirectly through disclosure of UKAD's budget for this system, could enable competitors to undercut TAG in the future.
9. Likewise, revealing the budget for and actual fees paid UKAD would likely adversely affect UKAD's bargaining position in any future negotiations for its financial management system contract and result in less competitive tender applications being made. Disclosing such information would also be likely to deter other companies from contracting with UKAD (and other public authorities) in the future, undermining UKAD's ability to obtain value for money in future contracts.
10. Having determined the prejudice that would likely arise from disclosing the budget for and costs of UKAD's financial management system, UKAD has gone on to consider whether the public interest test requires disclosure of this information.
11. UKAD recognises the public interest in public authorities being transparent and accountable, particularly in relation to expenditure of public funds. UKAD also recognises that it is in the public interest to ensure that authorities are obtaining value for money, and that disclosing the budget for and cost of UKAD's financial management system contract would allow the public to undertake such an evaluation.
12. Conversely, there is also the public interest in fairness of competition and in ensuring that that the ability of public authorities to obtain value for money is not undermined. Disclosure of fees paid to TAG, either directly or by disclosing UKAD's budget, would be likely to damage its ability to compete on a level playing field and cause fair competition to be reduced, simply because TAG has contracted with a public authority. As a result, the risk arises that fewer companies may be willing to contract with UKAD and that less competitive tender applications will be made, undermining UKAD's ability to obtain value for money in its future expenditure of public funds.

13. Having considered the public interest arguments both for and against maintaining the exemption, UKAD has concluded that the balance of the public interests falls in favour of non-disclosure in this instance. UKAD has also considered the decision of the Information Commissioner in FS50704057 and FS50752638 in coming to this conclusion<sup>1</sup>.

## Conclusion

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14. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Philip Bunt, Chief Operating Officer, UK Anti-Doping, Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8AE. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any further communications.
15. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



**UK Anti-Doping**

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<sup>1</sup> Available on the ICO website [here](#)