From: <u>FOI</u>

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Request NCC-045688-20

**Date:** 05 August 2020 17:18:00

## Dear

Thank you for your request for information about successful bids for the D2N2 LAC framework contract. You asked for information submitted by the successful bidders in their tender.

We consider that to release this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interest of those third party's and therefore we exempt this from disclosure under Section 43 of the Freedom of information Act. We consider that the risks to the commercial interest of these businesses outweighs any possible benefit to disclosing this information and it is therefore not in the public interest to release it.

We have further concerns about publishing information about this particular tender because it covers the specific arrangements for the care of our looked after children. So the information in the tender responses, as well as being commercially sensitive because it describes the unique business practices of how these providers run their children's homes & fostering agencies, also contains the details of key staff and likely information that could be used to identify the locations of where vulnerable children are being cared for, with obvious safeguarding implications and potential to risk to the safety of these young people. We therefore also consider that this information is exempt under Section 38 of the FOIA and that the potential risk to the safety of these young people being compromised outweighs the benefit of disclosure and it is therefore not in the public interest to release it.

The tenders are held in an electronic format and there are over fifty providers on the framework. We believe that it would exceed the cost limit of provision of information under the Act, to attempt extract information and redact the information described above as subject to exemptions under Section 43 and 38 to then be able to release any information contained within the tenders which is not subject to these exemptions. And therefore we also apply an exemption under Section 12 of the FOIA to the remaining information in the tender submissions.

However if you think it would be helpful, we could provide you with the questions which were asked of the bidders. Please advise if you would like me to forward these to you.

I am sorry that we cannot be of more help o you with this request. If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, then please email us at foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference NCC-045688-20 and we will be happy to review your request With kind regards

Complaints, Information and Mediation Officer Nottinghamshire County Council