

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

We would also like confirmation (as part of the FOI Act) as to whether the winning bidder is operating on a level playing field when it comes to their tax liabilities, an important issue for the UK taxpayer?

For your information the FOI Act allows requesters to ask for information held, and does not apply to general questions to, or views of, the company the request is submitted to. I am afraid that we are unable to answer a question about level playing fields between companies due to tax liabilities, as it is not a specific request for identified information that we hold, but for our opinion.

The Council, as part of its award of contract process, undertakes financial checks on companies to determine the level of risk associated with potential contract awards.

Should you require further information about the successful bidders tax affairs my advice would therefore be perhaps you would be better asking this question of HM Revenues and Customs. You can submit a request here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/about/publication-scheme>

I am sorry that I am unable to help at this time. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk**

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700**

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.