

**Derry City & Strabane** 

**District Council** 

Comhairle **Chathair Dhoire &** Cheantar an tSratha Báin

**Derry Cittie & Stràbane** Destrick Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 1251

13 June 2017

Mr

Email: @hotmail.com

Dear Mr

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Crisis Intervention Taskforce

I refer to your FOI request as below and thank you for your forbearance with our delay in responding.

## **Request:**

The dates of meetings, participants, agendae and minutes of meetings of the 'crisis intervention taskforce' since its creation. I believe Council has members on or facilitates this.

## **Response:**

I can advise that Derry City and Strabane District Council set up a multiagency task and finish working group in November 2016 to determine the most appropriate pilot service delivery model for a low threshold responsive Community Crisis Intervention Service (CCIS) for the DC&SDC area over a 12mth period. The aim is to implement an early CCIS which will assist in reducing the incidence of self-harm and suicide, resulting in wide-ranging societal benefits.

Any pilot will facilitate further development and evaluation of any CCIS delivery model should more long-term procurement of a service be required. Given that the minutes contain sensitive information and a procurement process may take place they cannot be shared at this time.

I can confirm however that the Council holds information that you have asked for However, the information requested is consideration by Council and this information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA exemption Section 22 – information held with a view to its future publication and Section 43. These exemptions are explained in more detail below:

Section 22 provides an exemption for information that is intended to be published in the future. Information is exempt if, at the time when the public authority receives a request for it:

o the public authority holds the requested information;

o the public authority intends the information to be published at some future date, whether that date is determined or not; and

o in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication.

In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information as any information held is not in complete form and may change before expected publication.

You can find out more about Section 22 by reading the extract from the Act and some guidance points we consider when applying this exemption https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1172/information-intendedfor-future-publication-and-research-information-sections-22-and-22a-foi.pdf

Section 43 of the Act permits the Council to withhold information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding it.

The Council considers that to disclose the information you have requested, at this stage, would prejudice the commercial interests of the parties concerned and this information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Act. This information is commercially sensitive to prospective tenderers and it is important to their competitiveness that they are able to remain as a participant in the market.

With regards to the Council's commercial interest, if the Council disclosed this type of information it would adversely affect our ability to source suppliers in a competitive environment.

Where the Council decides that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act, it must then apply what is known as a "public interest test". This requires the Council to decide whether, in all

the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information.

In applying the public interest test the Council gave careful consideration to the arguments for and against disclosure.

When considering factors which would favour disclosing the information, the Council had to assess whether disclosure of the information would:

- o Allow for more informed debate on the issue;
- o Promote accountability and transparency for our decisions and in our spending of public money; and
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.

Against these considerations the Council had to balance the likelihood of disclosure having an adverse effect on the commercial interest of the tenderers concerned and the Council itself.

Having taken into account the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption and by not disclosing the information requested, at this stage. The Council considers that the possible benefits of disclosure are outweighed by the real risk of causing prejudice to the commercial interests of the tenderers concerned and the Council itself. In this case there is an overriding public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly and in ensuring there is competition for public sector contracts.

You can find out more about Section 43 by reading the extract from the Act and some guidance points we consider when applying this exemption https://ico.org.uk/media/fororganisations/documents/1178/awareness guidance 5 v3 07 03 08.pdf

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie Chief Executive Derry City and Strabane District Council 98 Strand Road **BT48 7NN** Derry Tel 028 71253253 or email john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner** Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: <a href="mailto:casework@ico.org.uk">casework@ico.org.uk</a>

Yours sincerely

**Head of Health & Community Wellbeing**