

Dear Sam Stroud

Lower Thames Crossing Tunnels and Approaches Contract

Thank you for your information request dated 04/08/2023 regarding Lower Thames Crossing Tunnels and Approaches Contract. We have dealt with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked -

Hi

I have a couple of questions I was wondering if you could help with regarding the Lower Thames Crossing Tunnels and Approaches Contract, which is currently in the tender evaluation stage:

- *What percentage of the evaluation criteria for the bids relate to social value criteria?*
- *Do the social value criteria include references to employment standards?*
- *During the Competitive Dialogue process, do discussions with bidders encompass risk/uncertainty/requirements related to social value criteria, or are they restricted to method-related risk/uncertain/requirements?*

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bargaining & Investigative Researcher

National Bargaining & Disputes Support Department

[REDACTED]

We can confirm that we hold the information you have requested.

Information withheld

- **What percentage of the evaluation criteria for the bids relate to social value criteria?**
- **Do the social value criteria include references to employment standards?**

- **During the Competitive Dialogue process, do discussions with bidders encompass risk/uncertainty/requirements related to social value criteria, or are they restricted to method-related risk/uncertain/requirements?**

This information has been withheld under the exemption in [Section 43\(2\)](#) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for prejudice to commercial interests.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are attached.

If you are not satisfied with our response you may ask for an internal review within 40 working days of receiving the response, by replying to this email. You can learn more about the internal review process at https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/a14hbrhu/foi_eir_complaints_process.pdf.

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 <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/> or via the address below -

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI/6356** in any future communications about this response.

Kind regards

Lower Thames Crossing Team

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