



Ref: 0651

Request: 17/02/2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

In regards to the right to request information held by public sector organisations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into force in January 2005 please could you supply the following information:

Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Health Care Waste -
Pharmaceutical, Sharps, Cytotoxic and Cytostatic, Anatomical & General
Clinical

1. Contract Renewal Date
2. Contract Term
3. Contract Value for Full Contract Term (£)
4. Annual Tonnages of individual waste streams



Response:

Responded: 22/02/2010

Dear

Thank you for your request for information, placed under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (FOIA), which has kindly been passed to my offices by our Communications

Department. I set out below the Trust's response to your specific queries.

5. Contract Renewal Date - 31 March 2010
6. Contract Term - 3 years from 1st April 2006 with options to extend for further 24 months
7. Contract Value for Full Contract Term (£) - Given that the contract is to be re-tendered in the near future, we take the view that to release this specific information would be prejudicial to the Trust's ability to participate in commercial activity and therefore Section 43 FOIA applies. We are however prepared to advise that the approximate contract value is circa £250K - £300K. We are aware that an exemption claimed under Section 43 is subject to a determination of whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. We can confirm that we have considered whether the public interest would be served by disclosure of the information and set out the factors below which were taken into account.



Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption	Factors in favour of disclosing the information
<p>Where disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust by affecting adversely its bargaining position during contractual negotiations which would result in the less effective use of public money;</p> <p>Where disclosure would be likely to be used by competitors in a particular market to gain a competitive advantage.</p>	<p>That the Trust's commercial activities, including the procurement process are conducted in an open and honest way.</p> <p>That business can respond better to government opportunities.</p>

Following consideration of these factors, the Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

4. High temperature disposal waste weight - 2.8 kg (sharps boxes); alternative treatment waste weight - 112.6 kg (orange bagged clinical waste).

I trust this information will be of assistance. It does however remain for me to advise you that if you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request you have a right to complain to the Trust and should set out your concerns to Mr Peter Suter, Director of Information Management & Technology, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 220 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SD. If you then still remain dissatisfied, you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to seek a determination from the Information Commissioner on whether the Act has been properly applied by the Trust. For more information, please see www.ico.gov.uk

In closing, may I also take the opportunity to advise of the dedicated facility for placing requests for information under FOIA auspices – please see http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/talking_with_us.aspx#foi

Yours sincerely
Gary Bassett
Head of Patient Experiences
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust