



[REDACTED]

7 October 2020

[REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00291**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on the 10 September to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and UK Shared Business Service (UK SBS).

UK SBS have forwarded details of your request onto us for a response as they provide Procurement, HR & Payroll, and IT services to support UKRI. As outlined in our e-mail of 11 September we have aggregated the two requests, by virtue of Section 5(2) of The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 as the requests ask for similar information.

Details of your two requests are as follows:

**Your request to UKRI:**

*I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contracts below.*

- \* BGS Hard FM Services
- \* Specialist Mechanical Services at LMB and ARES
- \* General Hard Services at LMB and ARES

*The details we require are:*

- The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.
- When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.
- When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?
- Is the current contract likely to be extended?

**Your request to UK SBS**

*I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the contracts below.*

- \* UKRI FM19001 BGS Hard FM Services Request for Proposal
- \* FM19199 – General Hard Services at LMB and ARES

*The details we require are:*

- The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.
- When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.
- When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?
- Is the current contract likely to be extended?

## Our response

We can confirm that UKRI holds the information relevant to these contracts. I will refer to each of these contracts in turn.

Please note, that the BGS Hard FM Services and UKRI FM19001 BGS Hard FM Services Request for Proposal appear to refer to the same contract and therefore, our response is provided under the single heading of UKRI FM19001 BGS Hard FM Services Request.

No compliant bids were received for the original OJEU procurement exercise for General Hard Services at LMB and ARES (our reference FM19097). A subsequent contract FM19199 – General Hard Services at LMB and ARES replaced the original contract and a direct award was made under Regulation 32 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Our response is therefore, provided under the single heading of FM19199 – General Hard Services at LMB and ARES.

### **UKRI FM19001 BGS Hard FM Services Request**

#### **The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.**

Please note, that this was a Requests for Proposals (RFP) rather than Invitation to Tender (ITT). We are withholding the RFP by virtue of section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) as it constitutes information reasonably accessible elsewhere. The RFP has been published and can be accessed on the [Contracts Finder Service](#)<sup>1</sup> as an attachment called *FM19001 BGS Hard FM Services Requests for Proposal (RFP) v2*.

#### **When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?**

PIN or tender document release will be entirely dependent upon procurement timeframe, whether extensions are taken up and/or even if contracts are terminated prematurely. No date has been set for the retendering process. However, this is likely to occur closer to the time the contract ends (in November 2022).

#### **When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.**

The contract will run for 3 years, starting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. The contract has an option to extend for 12 months. A procurement start date for a new contract is not likely to occur before the contract ends in November 2022.

#### **Is the current contract likely to be extended?**

At this stage, it is not possible to state whether any extension will be taken up.

### **Specialist Mechanical Services at LMB and ARES**

#### **The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.**

Please note, that this was a RFP rather than Invitation to ITT. We are withholding the RFP by virtue of section 21 of the FOI as it constitutes information reasonably accessible elsewhere. The RFP has been published and can be accessed on the [Contracts Finder Service](#)<sup>2</sup> as an attachment called *UK SBS FM16105 Specialist Mechanical Services Request for Proposal RFP 14.09.16*.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/4496a9c0-eebf-43f6-b98c-eb70878baf10?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/926d9802-001c-4bc4-aa7a-91d4730d5d11?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

**When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?**

PIN or tender document release will be entirely dependent upon procurement timeframe, whether extensions are taken up and/or even if contracts are terminated prematurely. No date has been set for the retendering process. However, this is likely to occur in July to September 2022, 2023 or 2024.

**When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.**

The contract will run for three years, starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The contract has an option of 2 x 12 months extensions. A procurement start date for a new contract is not likely to occur before the base contract ends in December 2022.

**Is the current contract likely to be extended?**

At this stage, it is not possible to state whether any extension will be taken up.

### **FM19199 – General Hard Services at LMB and ARES**

**The final ITT published bid documentation from the current contract.**

No, ITT or RFP exists for this contract (FM19199). As explained above, FM19199 replaced an earlier contract (F19097) as no compliant bids were received for the original OJEU procurement exercise. For further background information, please see the entry on the [Contracts Finder](#)<sup>3</sup>. A RFP does however, exist for the original contract and is available on the [Contracts Finder](#)<sup>4</sup> as an attachment called *FM19097 General Hard Services at LMB and ARES Request for Proposal*. We are withholding the RFP by virtue of section 21 of the FOI as it constitutes information reasonably accessible elsewhere.

**When we can expect the process for retendering the above opportunity to commence? i.e. when can we expect to see a Prior Information Notice (PIN) or the tender documents released?**

PIN or tender document release will be entirely dependent upon procurement timeframe, whether extensions are taken up and/or even if contracts are terminated prematurely. No date has been set for the retendering process. However, this is likely to occur in July to September 2022, 2023 or 2024.

**When the procurement start date for the new contract will be once the current one expires.**

The contract will run for three years, starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The contract has an option of 2 x 12 months extensions. A procurement start date for a new contract is not likely to occur before the base contract ends in December 2022.

**Is the current contract likely to be extended?**

At this stage, it is not possible to state whether any extension will be taken up.

### **Section 21 FOIA – Information reasonably accessible**

Section 21(1) states that information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant is exempt information. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test. Further [guidance](#)<sup>5</sup> on the exemption is available on the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) website.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/f4974f95-586b-408a-9164-6e57e5edd526?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/e576f3f6-9fa3-495f-84a9-567d3e7c289c?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf>

Head of Information Governance


Email: [foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto:infogovernance@ukri.org)

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
[foi@ukri.org](mailto:foi@ukri.org) | [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)