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Public Interest Test

Freedom of Information

Section 43 Commercial Interests

Harm

Release via the Freedom of Information Act is deemed release into the public domain. It is our conclusion that releasing this information into the public domain would be likely to prejudice the competitive nature of platforms competing for our business. It could also leave our organisation open to phishing attacks.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosing information about the survey platforms that we use may be in the interest of the public who are interested in how much we spend on platforms, and which services we use. It may also be beneficial to platforms that we do not use to learn trade secrets and compete against one other.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Releasing information that falls within the scope of this request may have a detrimental effect on the platforms that we use as they may lose out to other competitors if they learn the price that they tender their services for. Additionally, it may lead our tendered services to increase their prices in order to compete with other platforms. This could have a detrimental impact on OPCC and WMP budgets if we must spend more money for the same service.

Furthermore, releasing information that is commercially sensitive would increase the risk of phishing attacks by those who may want to pretend to be administrators of those platforms.

Balancing Test

The issues of transparency are noted. However, on balance, it is considered that the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the potential harm that release would have on the owner of this information.

Where relevant we publish all contracts on the Intend contracting platform so that any tender opportunities are made available to suppliers. Only suppliers who are genuinely interested in bidding will then be told how much we want to spend, and the exact specification.

We do not release information about contract end dates and spend otherwise, as the information is commercially sensitive, and we would also want to ensure that we were protected from phishing attacks by those who may want to pretend to be administrators of those platforms.

Having considered the arguments for and against, I therefore consider that this prejudice test favours maintaining some level of confidentiality surrounding the costs of OPCC tendered services. The

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will not disclose information that could prejudice the current or future commercial interests of its organisation.