

Question:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information relating to any current contracted security guarding services used by your organisation.

Where held, please provide:

1. The name of the current security contractor(s).
2. The current contract start and end dates, including any extension options.
3. A copy of the current pricing schedule, rate card or schedule of rates for the contract.
4. The hourly charge rate paid for a standard SIA-licensed security officer/security guard.
5. The hourly charge rate for a security supervisor, where applicable.
6. Any different hourly rates for daytime, night-time, weekend and bank/public holiday cover.
7. Rates for ad-hoc or short-notice guarding, where applicable.
8. Rates for event security or door supervision, where applicable.
9. Rates for mobile patrols, keyholding and alarm response, where applicable.
10. Any management, mobilisation, administration or other recurring charges forming part of the pricing schedule.

I am seeking the client charge rates under the contract, rather than the wages paid to individual security officers.

If the full pricing schedule cannot be disclosed, please provide any parts that can be released and identify the relevant exemption relied upon for anything withheld. If the information is already publicly available, I would be grateful if you could provide the relevant link or contract reference.

Response:

I am writing to confirm that the Department of Health has now completed its search for the information requested in your email of 27 September 2026 concerning contracted security guarding services.

The Department uses the NICS collaborative Security and Ancillary Services Contract (ID 5054046) established by the Department of Finance, Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD).

I have addressed each element of your request below.

1. Name of the current security contractor

The current supplier is G4S Security Solutions (UK) Ltd. The Department of Health is included within Lot 1 of the contract. G4S Security Solutions (UK) Ltd was successful in all three Lots under the NICS collaborative Security and Ancillary Services Contract.

2. Current contract start and end dates, including extension options

The contract was awarded on 1 September 2024 for an initial period of three years, expiring on 31 August 2027.

The contract contains the option to extend for two further periods of 24 months each. The maximum contract end date, should all extension options be exercised, is 31 August 2031.

Other information relating to this contract that is in the public domain can be found at [NICS contract for security and ancillary services | Department of Finance](#)

3-7 & 9-10. Pricing schedule, charge rates and other contractual charges

The Department holds information relevant to these elements of your request. These questions relate to specific information contained within the successful supplier's tender documents, namely its contracted rates and pricing information.

The information relating to the tender pricing and charge rates is commercially sensitive and is therefore withheld under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the supplier and the Department.

Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states: "Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)."

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test, which is attached at Annex A.

The information requested at questions 3-7 and 9-10 is therefore withheld under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Public Interest Test :

Public Interest Test conducted: 14 October 2026

Name of exemption sought Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

Explanation of exemption

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

"Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)."

The exemption is considered applicable to the information requested at **questions 3-7 and 9-10**.

These questions relate to specific information contained within the successful supplier's tender documents, namely its contracted rates and pricing information.

The Department considers that disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the supplier and the Department.

Public Interest Considerations

Public Interest in Disclosure

- To show compliance with the Freedom of Information Act by disclosing information held by the Department as a Public Authority.
- There is a general public interest in the accountability, openness and transparency of government, and to promote public understanding.
- The right of the public to know that public money is being spent wisely.

- The public interest in disclosing information about public sector tender competitions to ensure that authorities' procurement processes are conducted in an open and fair manner.

Public Interest in Withholding

- There is a public interest in ensuring that private sector companies can compete on an equitable basis for public sector contracts and disclosure of commercially sensitive information could compromise the ability of companies to do so.
- The disclosure of this information would undermine the supplier's ability to successfully compete for future public sector tender competitions.
- There is a risk that the supplier could be discouraged from competing for future competitions if information identified as being commercially sensitive is released, thereby reducing the competitive market.
- Any release of the tender response and/or pricing would prejudice the market/competition and unfairly advantage other companies.
- Further, where a release would reveal the commercial advantages that parties may have developed over many years at significant cost, such a disclosure would be likely to cause significant damage to commercial interests.
- Releasing the successful supplier's pricing information would be detrimental to its ability to compete successfully for such services in the future in both the public and private sectors and, by disclosing commercially sensitive material in this way, would diminish confidence in the integrity of the public tendering process and thus disincline companies from competing in such contests.

Decision

After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure.

Disclosure would cause significant damage to the commercial interests of the supplier and the contracting authority and weaken the ability of public authorities to obtain value for money for the public purse.

The public interest in maintaining the exemption therefore outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The information requested at questions 3-7 and 9-10 is therefore withheld under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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