

Request Reference: 3610

FOI Request dated 03/03/2026 -

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your organisation's current cleaning and soft facilities management (FM) services.

Please provide the following:

1. Current Contract Information

- *The name(s) of the supplier(s) delivering cleaning and/or soft FM services.*
- *A description of the services included (e.g., cleaning, waste, grounds maintenance, washroom services, pest control, etc.).*
- *Contract start date, end date, and any extension options.*
- *The total annual contract value (or estimated value if exact figures are not held).*
- *Contact Details of the person responsible for the contract.*

2. Upcoming Opportunities

- *Details of any planned re-procurement or market engagement for cleaning or bundled soft FM services within the next 24–36 months.*
- *Any published procurement timetables, PIN notices, or soft market testing documents.*
- *Are there any plans or opportunities for pre-market engagement*

3. Additional Information

- *The name or job title of the internal contact responsible for estates/FM contract oversight (not personal details beyond what is permissible under FOIA Section 40).*

Response

Cleaning

1. Current Contract Information

- Kingston Cleaning Servies window cleaning. Shorrock Trichem
- Kingston Cleaning Services window cleaning and Shorrock Trichem washroom services
- Contract start date, end date, and any extension options – August 2023 – August 2026
- The total annual contract value (or estimated value if exact figures are not held) – *Exempt as per s43
- Services Manager please see procurement details at the end of this response

2. Upcoming Opportunities

- N/A
- for window cleaning due to go out April 2026
- the RFQ will be issued to 3-4 local companies.

Waste Management

1. Current Contract Information

- Biffa – waste disposal
- Biffa - Waste disposal services
- October 2023 – extension options to Oct 2027
- The total annual contract value (or estimated value if exact figures are not held) – *Exempt as per s43
- Head of Sustainability and Environmental Services please see procurement details at the end of this response

2. Upcoming Opportunities

- N/A
- None
- N/A

The Grounds Maintenance and Pest Control are managed as and when required, there aren't any contracts in place.

* Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The University considers that this is commercially sensitive information, release of which may give an unfair advantage to its competitors and thus damage its own commercial interests. It is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The University operates in a commercial and competitive environment, both within the United Kingdom and internationally. The information requested could be used by competitor institutions to secure an advantage when recruiting students.

In the light of this, the University is therefore engaging the Commercial Interests exemption Section 43 (2) in the FOI Act. Please note that this exemption is concerned with the commercial interests of all parties, not just those of the University.

This exemption is subject to the Public Interest test.

Favour of the disclosure

Promoting accountability, transparency and scrutiny of the University on the range of information relating to:

- Costs;
- Specifications
- Public/private partnerships.

Favour of withholding the requested information

Universities operate in a commercial and competitive environment. Unlike many other types of public authority subject to the Freedom of Information Act, they are in direct competition with each other. Universities in the UK are also in competition with overseas institutions, and certain private service providers, neither of whom are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Release of this information could well put the University at an unfair disadvantage in that this information could be used by competitor institutions to their own commercial advantage.

Conclusion – Withhold the information

Section 43 of the Freedom of Information act sets out an exemption from the right to know if the release of information is likely to prejudice the commercial interest of any person (a person may be an individual, company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

The University therefore feels that it is justified in applying Section 43.

Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which (a) states that fact (b) specifies the exemptions in question and (c) if not otherwise apparent why that exemption applies. This response acts as that notice.

Please be aware that Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made with the intention of furthering commercial interests, such as selling goods or services or gaining a competitive advantage over potential suppliers, are outside the intended scope of FOI. Using FOI for gaining a commercial advantage over others is not in line with the purpose of the Act and provides minimal or no benefit to the public. ICO guidance sets out that: “The public interest here means the public good, not what is of interest to the public, and not the private interests of the requester.”

To assist you on this occasion and for future reference, you may find the following information helpful:

- For all procurement enquiries, if you are interested in becoming a supplier or you are a current supplier, please see our webpage: Procurement | University of Hull
- We suggest you view the Contracts Finder (government website): <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> for information about contracts awarded/due for tender.