

25/07/2025

REF: RM/CON-38813 FOI798

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REVIEW REQUEST – CON-FOI798

I have received your request dated 2 July 2025. I have carried out the review of the handling of your request for information dated 6th June 2025, and the response provided to you by colleagues within the OPCC. In line with the ICO guidance, I can confirm I was not involved in the handling of your request for information.

Your original request:

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Avon and Somerset Police are required to publish information about contracts and suppliers to ensure the force are delivering an open and transparent service.

On 9 January 2025 a payment of £15,000 was made under 'PCC Supplies & Services Contractors' to Cives Consultancy Ltd. It was noted that the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner are satisfied the spend represents Value For Money in accordance with the requirements of category B.

Please provide:

- the requirements of Category B
- details of how this payment to Cives Consultancy Ltd complied with Category B requirements e.g. procurement process, number of applicants, criteria for choosing the successful applicant etc
- details and relevant dates of the supplies and services delivered by Cives Consultancy Ltd under this contract.

Our original response:

The identified categories are based on the value levels set out in our Scheme of Governance [December-2022-Joint-Scheme-of-Governance.pdf](#). Category A is under £10,000, Category B is £10,000 to £50,000 and Category C is greater than £50,000.

The work was commissioned through a single tender action for an urgent review of the OPCC office to assess its alignment with delivery of the new Police and Crime Commissioner's key priorities. The review and associated advice took place between October and December 2024.

Your request for review

I am writing to request an internal review of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's handling of my FOI request 'Payment to Cives Consultancy Ltd'.

I requested details of how this payment to Cives Consultancy Ltd complied with Category B requirements.

This information has not been provided.

If Single Tender Action (STA) occurred, this should be clearly stated together with the justification, given that it should only occur in exceptional circumstances.

Review of the response to your original request

I have reviewed the handling of your request for information and have determined the following.

The information provided was accurate but could have been clearer.

Current Contract Standing Orders for a contract of this size normally requires at least three formal written quotations or references to three supplier catalogues shall be obtained unless a single tender action is used. Single tender actions should only be used in very exceptional circumstances.

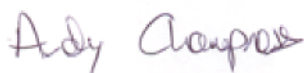
This single tender action was authorised because of the extreme urgency with which the work was required.

I acknowledge the original response to you should have included this information.

We aim to be clear and transparent in how we respond to requests for information, and learning from this is being implemented to ensure we uphold this standard.

Following this review, if you are still dissatisfied with your Freedom of Information response, you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who can be contacted at: <http://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Champness
Temporary Chief Executive

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioners Office