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3 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2023/24-027

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office for the following information:

To provide a copy of all appendices upon which the ICS Supply Chain Study dated October 2022 requires and references in the final report.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Supply Chain Coordination Limited (SCCL) confirms it does hold the information requested, however, after careful consideration, it has been decided that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act. This provides that information can be withheld where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

It is acknowledged that the statutory exemption provided by section 43 of the FOIA requires SCCL to consider the public interest for and against disclosure of the requested information. SCCL has considered the public interest arguments for and against disclosure of information to which the exemption provided by section 43 of the FOIA applies.

In conclusion, notwithstanding the strong public interest in public authorities ensuring accountability and transparency, the following public interest factors apply in the case of the requested information covered by section 43 of the FOIA:

1. SCCL, contracting NHS Trusts and third-party contracting bodies have legitimate commercial interests in ensuring that the terms by which they are able to operate (including the manner in which they contract) are optimal. Supplier pricing is derived either under tender conditions or subsequent price competitions (mini-competitions, e-auctions, etc.) and conducted under controlled, confidential processes.
2. To release a copy of this data would adversely impact on SCCL's ability to manage its relationship with both the relevant external suppliers and NHS Trusts.

It is not in the public interest to prejudice any of SCCL/NHS Supply Chain, relevant NHS Trusts and relevant supplier commercial interests at the expense of disclosure which is likely to damage

commercial relations and adversely impact on our ability to manage our relationships and any future tenders.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

Supply Chain Coordination Limited
Management Function of NHS Supply Chain