Supply Chain
Coordination Limited

[redacted]

Equinox House
City Link
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG2 4LA

Email: FOI@supplychain.nhs.uk
www.supplychain.nhs.uk

7 May 2025

Dear [redacted]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2025/26-014

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

- The overall scores awarded to each applicant who submitted a tender for each lot in the tender process for the curtains, blinds and associated services 2025 tender, reference number 2024/S 000-036284.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and SCCL are unable to provide this information as it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act 2000. 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).

All information that SCCL are obliged to provide without compromising the commercial interests of applicants has been provided in the Intent to Award letters shared with all applicants who submitted a tender.

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:
   a. damage commercial relations between the Trust and/or SCCL and its suppliers.
   b. adversely impact on SCCL's ability to manage its relationship with both the relevant external suppliers and NHS Trusts.

c. adversely impact on SCCL/NHS Supply Chain's ability to achieve best value solutions with its suppliers, who may be constrained in offering those solutions should they be at risk of disclosure under FOIA.

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.

We hope that this response addresses your request. However, 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