

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-17-0083 - Pension Fund
Date: 27 January 2017 15:57:21
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 13 January 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

I would like to raise a Freedom of Information Request regarding your Pensions Administration system for the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"):

• Which Pensions Administration System does the authority use?

Altair.

• Does the system include a document management module?

Yes.

• Does the system include a workflow module?

Yes.

• How many users access the system across the council?

29.

• Where is the Pensions Administration system physically located and run – i.e. is it in house or hosted remotely or via the Cloud?

Hosted remotely.

• When did the contract commence and when will it expire?

Contract commenced in 2011 after full EU Restricted Procedure and will be reviewed in 2018.

• Who is the person responsible for the system (name & title)?

Benefit Administration and Technical Manager

• Do you intend to evaluate alternative solutions when the contract expires?

Yes.

• Are you in a shared service for either ICT or Pensions Administration?

No.

a) If yes, what is the nature of the shared service?

b) If no, what plans do you have for shared service/partnership working?

None.

• Do you administer other pension schemes e.g. the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, the Police Pension Scheme or the LGPS on behalf of another Local Authority?

We also administer the LGPS on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and The Moray Council

If the Pensions Administration system is run/managed in-house:

• **What is the annual software (licence and support) charge payable to the Pensions Administration system provider?** • **What was the initial capital cost of the system payable to the supplier?**

If the Pensions Administration system is hosted remotely (via the cloud):

• **How are the annual charges made up (software licence/support charge, hosting charge etc.)?**

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **the annual software (licence and support) charge, initial capital cost of the system** and **How are the annual charges made up** as it is exempt from disclosure. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 33(1)(b) – Commercial Interests - of the FOISA.

In making this decision ACC considered the following points:

Do commercial interests exist in relation to the information?

ACC considers that commercial interests exist in relation to this information because it comprises information about an ongoing contract.

Whose commercial interests exist in relation to the information?

Aberdeen City Council and our supplier.

What is the nature of those interests?

Aberdeen City Council considers that commercial interests exist in relation to this information because it comprises the Contractor's pricing schedule.

What level of harm would result from disclosure of this information?

Disclosure of this information into the public domain under the FOISA would prejudice the commercial interests of both the contractor and ACC. Disclosure would be likely to weaken the Contractor's business position in a competitive environment by revealing sensitive information of potential usefulness to competitors. ACC must maintain good working relationships with reputable companies to enable it to obtain value for money and so releasing commercially sensitive information could potentially damage ACC'S reputation with such third parties, dissuading the third parties from engaging with ACC.

Where does the public interest lie in relation to the information?

The exemption claimed by ACC is a non-absolute exemption. Where a non-absolute exemption applies, ACC is required by Section 16(2) of FOISA, to inform you as to why in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information to you.

While ACC identifies that there is a public interest in the financial information of ACC, in terms of 'following the public pound', ACC feels that the public interest lies in withholding the information as disclosure would prejudice ACC's commercial relationship and future contractual negotiations with suppliers. There is a strong public interest in allowing normal market forces to operate in a competitive environment and engage in a fair and transparent process. On this

basis, ACC is of the view that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest is best met by applying Section 33(1)(b).

If the LGPS Pensions Administration is outsourced:

• **Details of the organisation providing the pensions administration service**

Not applicable.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

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