24 November 2025

Our Ref: UKSBS-FOI25-26-067

Dear

Request for Review

I refer to your email of 28 October 2025, in which you requested a review of our FOI response dated 24 October 2025.

Your request for review has been assigned to me for consideration. I have now completed my review and set out my findings below. For ease, I have answered each of your points in turn.

The evaluation criteria and scoring used for this procurement.

BAS (British Antarctic Survey) - DDaT25216
Cloud Based Management Tool - Contracts Finder

The award criteria applied was MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender), in line with the G-Cloud Buyer Guidance. Please see the attached guidance and the extract below:

"The most efficient way to compare services is using the MEAT evaluation criteria which will allow you to consider best functional fit, quality, and whole life cost accordingly. Award criteria can include:
• whole-life cost: cost effectiveness, price, and running costs
• technical merit and functional fit: coverage, network capacity and performance
• after-sales service management: help desk, account management function, and assurance of supply of a range of services
• non-functional characteristics."

The email sent to Brad Cahill provided the reasoning for the score. To assist further, we have disclosed the attached document titled **'DDaT25216 Shortlist Evaluation Matrix (Redacted)'**.

STFC (Science and Technology Facilities Council) - DDaT25193
Contract management system - Contracts Finder

Under G-Cloud 14, awards can be made either on MEAT criteria or on lowest price, as per the Buyer's Guide:

"You can evaluate shortlisted suppliers in 2 ways:
1. Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) criteria

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2. Direct award on lowest price only if they are comparable services."

On this occasion, the contract was awarded to the lowest price supplier on the shortlist. Please note: UKSBS is unable to provide Digital Beehive with a copy of the pricing comparison document, as disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. This information is therefore exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests). The public interest in withholding this information outweighs the interest in disclosure, as release could undermine fair competition and future procurement processes.

Any correspondence or documentation relating to the assessment of our submission
UKSBS does not hold any further information to disclose beyond what has already been provided.

The final award decision and rationale.

For DDaT25216, please refer to the attached document 'DDaT25216 Shortlist Evaluation Matrix (Redacted)', which sets out the scoring. This, together with the G-Cloud Buyer Guidance, provides the rationale for the decision.

For DDaT25193, Digital Beehive has already received:

- A copy of the email from the technical team to the procurement team containing additional technical feedback
- A redacted PDF of the demonstration justifications

Having reviewed the original response and the information held, I am satisfied that UKSBS has complied with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. Certain information has been withheld under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests), as disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of UKSBS and its suppliers.

Regarding Digital Beehive's comment on NEC4, if you have any questions regarding the process of the procurement activities, please contact policy@uksbs.co.uk for further clarification.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any review carried out by UKSBS following your request for information, you have a right under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) to appeal to the independent regulator (Information Commissioner).

If you wish to do so, you must appeal to the Commissioner within six months following the date of receipt of our review decision. The Commissioner's website can be found on the following link: https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-complaint/ or you can contact them at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Call their helpline on t**elephone number:** 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510

Yours sincerely

Senior Information Management Officer and Deputy Data Protection Officer
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UKSBS Information Commissioner's Office Registration Number: Z1237687

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