Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/31228

13 May 2024

Contract with Lemonade Wigs

I am writing to request information on the above wig contract that was abandoned on July 5th 2022. From further investigation from our legal team, we received a written response from Colm Johnston BSO solicitor to provide information that the trust on the 30th November 2022 put in place thier own arrangements for temporary contracts. We are now approaching each individual trust for information we need under the freedom of Information act.

As we participated in the tender for wigs and associated products (find a tender reference: 2022/S000-020488). Under the freedom of Information act we would like information held on the submission of this contract that was live for almost a year and abandoned at the final stage.

2022 TENDER PROCESS

Whilst an automated message was received via eTenderNI and contract award notice published on Find a Tender these did not meet the transparency obligations imposed by the regulations. In particular, regulation 55 requires contracting authorities to provide the "grounds for any decision (a) not to conclude a framework". This information has clearly not been provided.

In accordance with requirements of Regulaton 55, please therefore confirm:

- **The reason why this process was terminated.**
- **That this contract award notice was intended to apply to all of the lots and that a contract has not been awarded for any of the lots under this framework.**
- **A full breakdown of the scores awarded to Lemonade wigs Limited and any relevant evaluation panel feedback in respect to Lemonade wigs tender submission. As this tender was live for a number of months and our team had been corresponding with procurement in reference to queries, there most definitely has to be held information on this feedback.**

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

We appreciate that these are essential supplies for the health service and therefore we understand that there must be interim arrangements in place to deliver thus service. We have not been able to find any evidence of any contract award notices or voluntary exante transparency notices being published in respect of these supplies.

- **Given the significant value of these products (bearing in mind the previous tender process was valued at £102 million), please confirm**
- **What interim arrangements are in place including the names if suppliers, duration of the contracts and spend to date under these arrangements?**
- **How these interim arrangements comply with the requirements of the regulations?**

FUTURE STEPS

We assume that plans are in place for a new tender process. Please therefore confirm:

- **When the new tender process is due to be published?**
- **What steps have been taken to address the issues which led to the collapse of the previous procurement process?**
- **Will meaningful pre-market engagement be undertaken (rather than simply publishing a prior information notice as was the case previously) to enable the market to feed into and help shape the procurement process and address the previous issues?**

This information is not held by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, please contact Business Service Organisation's (BSO) Freedom of Information team who will be able to investigate your enquiry. They can be contacted at: foi.bso@hscni.net