



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-01976

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Monitoring Of Contracts

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Please note that the information requested relates to your construction procurement activities over the past 12 months.

What monitoring and reporting do you have in place to check whether your main contractors are paying their sub-contractors within 30 days?

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Since November 2013 all new contracts require main contractors to sign an agreement with all their first tier sub-contractors to meet the 'Fair Payment' commitments set out in the Fair Payment Charter and report on this at every contract progress meeting.

Question 2

If your response to Q1 is in the negative what other steps does your organisation take to ensure fair payment is applied along construction supply chains?

Answer

Not applicable as per answer to question 1.

Question 3

Please provide information showing the average time taken by your organisation to discharge payments to your direct or main contractors?

Answer

Upon receipt of an approved invoice, payment to main contractors is normally discharged within 10 working days.

Question 4

Do you apply a cash retention in your works contracts?

Answer

Yes.

Question 5

If you apply a cash retention what use do you make of the cash whilst it's in your possession?

Answer

No use is made of the cash.

Question 6

Have you or are you about to put in place project bank accounts on your construction projects?

Answer

Yes for all contracts over £1m.

Question 7

Please provide information about any plans which your organisation has for improving payment performance along the supply chain [e.g. making payments to sub-contractors within 30 days (of the main contract due payment dates) a pre-qualification requirement for lead contractors].

Answer

The reporting arrangements identified at Q1 above will be included in all replacement contracts.

Question 8

Has your organisation been using PAS 91 as the pre-qualification standard to be the exclusion of other pre-qualification requirements?

Answer

As part of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) process, we utilise the Constructionline pre-qualification tool which is PAS 91:2013 compliant.

Question 9

If you are not currently using PAS 91 as the exclusive route to pre-qualification does your organisation have plans to use PAS 91 (exclusively) in the future?

Answer

Not applicable.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however

the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.