

19 January 2024

Dear

ATISN 20026 – Alma Economics Ltd

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 December 2023.

You requested:

Welsh Government has repeatedly used the services of Alma Economics Limited to back up its policy decisions over recent years.

This FOI request asks:

- 1) What Due Diligence process was followed when appointing this organisation (London Based) and was a competitive tendering process followed.
- 2) How many exercises have been undertaken for Welsh Government over the last 5 years?
- 3) How much has Welsh Government paid to Alma Economics during that time?
- 4) Which alternative businesses were considered for the work?
- 5) Why were Alma selected in each case above others?

I note that in their accounts show only 13 people as employees.

Given that widely differing policy areas are covered it is interesting that the same company has been repeatedly engaged.

ALMA ECONOMICS LIMITED
Company number 09391354

Our response

Please see our response at Annex A.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Annex A

Question	Answer or related document
<p>1. What Due Diligence process was followed when appointing this organisation (London Based) and was a competitive tendering process followed.</p>	<p>The due diligence undertaken for each individual contract will take too long to access as there is no central database with this information. The due diligence is dependent on the tender process followed for each individual contract and will be stated in the tender documents. However, all Welsh Government procurement contracts are awarded to the most economically advantageous quote/tender in terms of value for money on the basis of the criteria stated in the tender documents, which are listed in order of importance including the weighting applicable to each criterion.</p> <p>Within the Welsh Government the principles and requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations are followed and the normal procurement procedures are that unless an exemption reason applies. Where an existing compliant public sector framework is not applicable, for a total contract requirement up to £5,000 a single quote is sought, requirements of £5,000-£25,000, 3 quotes are sought, and for requirements above £25,000 an open tender via sell2wales is undertaken supported by Commercial and Procurement. Please see attached document 1, column D, for the tender process followed for the contracts.</p>
<p>2. How many exercises have been undertaken for Welsh Government over the last 5 years?</p>	<p>Please see attached document 1 that identifies there have been 18 contracts that have been recorded as being awarded to Alma Economics on the Welsh Government finance system in the last 5 years.</p>
<p>3. How much has Welsh Government paid to Alma Economics during that time?</p>	<p>A total invoice value for Alma Economics of £939,289.80, with a total value of contracts awarded of £1,169,474 over the last 5 years as per the Welsh Government finance system.</p>
<p>4. Which alternative businesses were considered for the work?</p>	<p>Please see attached document 1.</p>
<p>5. Why were Alma selected in each case above others?</p>	<p>Please see the response to question 1.</p>