

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

DMFD155

Title: Extension of Cleaning provision across the London Fire Brigade estate

Information may have to be disclosed in the event of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In the event of a request for confidential facts and advice, please consult the Information Governance team for advice.

This information is not for publication until the stated date, because:

Publication of the information included in this report is deferred as its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the London Fire Commissioner (LFC) and the suppliers of the cleaning services.

Date at which Part 2 will cease to be confidential or when confidentiality should be reviewed: six months from date of decision.

Legal recommendation on the grounds of keeping the information confidential:

In the event the information contained in this Part 2 and/or its appendix is the subject of a request for information under section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), it is considered that access can be denied on the basis that such information constitutes exempt information under:

Section 43(2) of the Act, on the basis that the information in this report includes information that is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

The basis for this is to wait until the final costs have been agreed and the funding is fully approved.

The recommended period for non-publication of Part 2 is six months.

Public interest assessment

At present, on balance, it is considered that the public interest is best served if the information is not disclosed at this point. Disclosure by the LFC would be likely to have a detrimental effect on the LFC's position and the suppliers of the cleaning provision.

The eligibility of these exemptions should be reassessed in the event of an FOI request for this information as the level of sensitivity will change over time and different circumstances may alter the arguments in favour of non-disclosure.

Legal Adviser – I make the above recommendations that this information should be considered confidential at this time.

Name: Justine Curry

Date: 31/1/22

Once this form is fully authorised, it should be circulated with Part 1.

Confidential decision and/or advice:

Introduction and background

The London Fire Commissioner (LFC) seeks to use its entire COVID reserve to pay for enhanced cleaning due to COVID-19.

The estimated cost of the continued requirement of enhanced cleaning is £37,440 per week. This is based on the current costs of £36,000 per week plus a 4 per cent increase to cover inflation increases and the anticipated increase in London Living Wage from April 2022. This results in a forecast overall spend of £1,946,880 for 52 weeks up to March 2023. An additional allowance of £50,000 is also required to allow for further additional enhanced cleaning specifically, following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in an identified work area. This results in a forecast overall spend of £1,996,800. The associated service spend at the end of February 2022 is noted at £1,780,000.

Financial comments

The report recommends that delegated authority is provided to increase the cleaning provision across the LFB operational estate, at an estimated cost of £37,440 per week for a period of up to 52 weeks to the end of March 2023.

An additional allowance of £50,000 is also requested for additional enhanced cleaning specifically, following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in an identified work area, resulting in total requested spend of £1,996,800.

The current COVID reserve has a balance of £2,000,000; if approved, the additional cleaning costs will be met by this reserve. It is expected that the full costs of the additional cleaning can be met from the COVID reserve; however, should further COVID costs arise once the COVID reserve is fully used, it will be recognised as a service pressure to be managed by the department as part of the regular budgetary control process.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Part 2 of Report LFC-0642