

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

██████████
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA010618-3689

18 July 2018

Dear ██████████

Further to our response of 29 June, please find below the final part of our response to your request for information which the GLA received on 1 June, and which we clarified on 14 June 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

All documents from the past 2 years that relate to the creation of this tool

You clarified:

- 1. With regards to this, I would like the minutes from any meetings involving people from GLA, specifically, meetings that involve determining the main features (i.e. the fact that it can tell one how many people make one's journey), and those determining, and justifying the funding and creation of the tool. I also seek any relevant e-mails that relate to the justification to make the tool, and the decision itself to make it.*
- 2. I am referring to the decision to develop the tool, and not the technical construction*

Please find attached the information we hold within the scope of your request.

We do not hold any minutes of the meetings and calls discussing this project.
We do hold copies of emails and other documents and these are attached.

We have made some redactions to withhold names and addresses from the disclosed information as they constitute third-party personal data which is exempt from release under the provision of section 40(2) of the Fol Act.

The GLA has redacted Forward Action's hourly rate, as we consider this information to be exempt information by virtue of section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43(2) of the Act provides that information may be exempt information if the release of that information into the public domain (in response to a request under that Act) would, or would be likely, to be prejudicial to the commercial interests of any person - i.e. the commercial interests of the GLA itself, any company, or any other legal entity.

The annex to this letter provides more information about this exemption provision and how it has been engaged.

If you have any further questions about how we handled your request, please contact me quoting the reference MGLA010618-3689.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Phillips
Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

Annex A – Exemption provisions

Exemption provisions
<p>Section 43: Commercial interests.</p> <p>(2) Information 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).</p>
How these exemptions apply to this information
<p>Section 43(2)</p> <p>Section 43(2) of the Act provides that information may be exempt information if the release of that information into the public domain (in response to a request under that Act) would, or would be likely, to be prejudicial to the commercial interests of any person - i.e. the commercial interests of the GLA itself, any company, or any other legal entity.</p> <p>A commercial interest relates to a person's ability to participate competitively in a commercial activity and their ability to trade, i.e. the purchase and sale of goods or services.</p> <p>In this case, the release or publication of this information into the public domain would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Forward Action by giving competitors and potential customers information about pricing. It would give competitors an advantage when pitching for projects against us (i.e. use the hourly rate to work out what their likely cost would be)</p>
Public interest test
<p>It is necessary to consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption and withholding the information until the publication date, is greater than the public interest in releasing the information before this date.</p> <p>The GLA recognises the legitimate public interest in the release of information relating to expenditure and best value for the taxpayer.</p> <p>In balancing the public interest in disclosure, we consider the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole if the information is released or not. The 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective government and to serve the best interests of the public. In this case the public interest is served by the release of the total cost of the project</p> <p>It would not be in the public interest to release information that would affect the free and fair competition of competing private commercial businesses in an open marketplace.</p>