

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA080917-6630

26 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 8 September 2017. Your request has been dealt with under the Environment Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Our response to your request is as follows:

*Around July 2017, Lambeth council was awarded a £55m grant for new affordable housing by GLA. Please provide the following:*

- 1. Original application and documents submitted by Lambeth council, and any subsequent additional or revised documents.*
- 2. Any reports or written documentation outlining the due diligence and its findings undertaken by the GLA on Lambeth's application*

We can disclose some of the requested information to you; this includes the general project details, number of homes and delivery and milestones sections of the application. Please note that the milestones and unit numbers are all indicative and subject to change following resident consultation and planning permission. It should also be noted that the Council has not yet entered into a legal agreement with the GLA to deliver these schemes. The agreement is a non-negotiable standard template all local authorities are expected to enter.

Some of the information you requested is being withheld as it falls under the exception in Regulation (5)(e) (confidentiality of commercial or industrial information) of the EIR. This includes elements of the application such as the funding details, and the GLA's subsequent due diligence. The purpose of this exception is to protect any legitimate economic interests underlying commercial confidentiality.

This information is commercial in nature because it relates to the per-unit price of work that would be commissioned by LB Lambeth and will eventually be used to procure contractors. The information is not trivial, nor in the public domain and was provided to the GLA on a confidential basis and therefore protected by the common law of confidence.

Disclosure of this information would prejudice the ability of LB Lambeth to achieve best value for money with respect to the Homes for Londoners 2016-21 Affordable Homes Programme. The information could be used by parties bidding for work to identify how much has been budgeted for each category of work covered by the bid. A party may then be able to create a bid that is modified and not truly competitive. The confidentiality of this information is therefore required to protect the legitimate economic interests of LB Lambeth because disclosure could affect their bargaining position and ability to operate an effective procurement process.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information:

We acknowledge that there is a general public interest in transparency in relation to the manner in which the GLA and local authorities award, allocate and spend funds in relation to the programme. Disclosure of this information would help enable the residents of Lambeth to understand more fully the decision making and application processes behind the application by Lambeth council.

The disclosure of this information would also inform discussion regarding the programme and its effectiveness within the London Borough of Lambeth. Providing detailed information held by public authorities is in keeping with the Government's transparency agenda and promotes accountability and greater public participation. Furthermore, the public interest is served by the GLA being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and working to protect the public purse.

However, on balance, we consider that it is not in the public interest for the GLA to release information that would prejudice the commercial interests of a third-party. This is particularly important where that third-party is required to achieve value-for-money on behalf of their communities in relation to the expenditure of funds from the public purse.

We consider that the best interests of the people and communities of London – are best served by ensuring that the council is able to achieve value-for-money. The public interest would not be met if the GLA released information that could result in the expenditure of further public money. Disclosure by the GLA would be likely to have a detrimental effect on the procurement of services by LB Lambeth, potentially prejudicing their future negotiating capabilities.

### *3. The terms and conditions and scope of works associated with the awarding of the grant.*

The Grant Agreement is already in the public domain and available on our website;

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ap\\_contract\\_-\\_grant\\_agreement\\_for\\_las\\_in\\_relation\\_to\\_the\\_affordable\\_homes\\_programme\\_2016-2021\\_thl\\_127540466\\_4.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ap_contract_-_grant_agreement_for_las_in_relation_to_the_affordable_homes_programme_2016-2021_thl_127540466_4.pdf)

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Robinson**  
**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>