

By email

19 July 2011-07-20

Dear xxxxxxxxx

FOI Request – F0007842 – Blue Badge Scheme

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information you requested in your email of 5 July under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the contract, which was eventually won by Northgate Information Solutions, was put out to tender via an EU-compliant tendering process.

The national procurement partner for all UK public services is Buying Solutions and this is part of the Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office. The role of Buying Solutions is to maximise the value for money obtained by Government departments and other public bodies through the procurement and supply of goods and services.

The Department used the Buying Solutions Software Application Solutions (SAS) framework to compete the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) contract, as the scope of the BBIS met the terms of the multi-supplier SAS framework.

The use of the framework allowed the Department to achieve better value for money by reducing tendering and administration costs, as the framework had been let by Buying Solutions, using EU procurement processes. The competition for the BBIS contract complied with the Public Procurement Regulations for letting contracts from a framework.

I hope that the information provided here is helpful. However if you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure below and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

xxxxxxx  
Traffic Division  
Department for Transport  
xxxx  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DR

### **Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF