



Request

1. The average price per mile paid for tendered routes
 - a. across all four-seat vehicle routes
 - b. across all eight-seat vehicle (no wheelchair) routes
 - c. across all eight-seat vehicle (with wheelchair(s) routes)

2. The projected total expenditure for the academic year 2025/26 on tendered/ subcontracted routes only

Response

The Council holds the price per route, however is withholding it from disclosure in accordance with Section 43(2) of the FOI Act which exempts information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any legal person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). In applying this exemption, we have carried out a public interest test. While we recognise the importance of openness and transparency in the spending of public funds, we believe that this is outweighed by the potential harm that could result from disclosure. Specifically, releasing the requested information could prejudice future negotiations for similar contracts, to the detriment of both the Council and the service providers involved. We therefore consider that maintaining the exemption serves the greater public interest in ensuring fair and competitive procurement processes.

2 £7,409,127