

Access to Public Information Response

November 3rd 2014

REQUEST UNDER THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

Request sent on November 3rd 2014:

I'm looking for information under the Access to Information regulations.

I'd like to find out how much money has been spent by the Public Services Department on the contract with Orchard PR for the MyHarbours project.

States of Guernsey response November 3rd 2014:

Guernsey Harbours has produced a 10-year business plan, which sets out in detail the revenues we need to be financially self-sufficient and to address the historic under-investment in upkeep of the existing facilities. We are looking at private investment, new revenue streams, and efficiency savings as ways of meeting these funding requirements, but increased charges also have to be considered.

That is why the MyHarbours consultation was launched. We want the views of islanders before deciding what priorities should be for raising additional revenue, and areas where perhaps increases are more sensitive. It was vital that as many people as possible engaged in that process, so we worked with a number of local companies who were able to help us do that. They have been providing skills that we do not have in-house, such as website development, communication, design and production, and analysis of consultation responses.

This is a very important project and although the initial consultation period has closed the MyHarbours work is still ongoing. The overall budget for these third party services is around £40,000.

There is no confidentiality clause in any contracts preventing disclosure of overall budgets, but commercial confidence for individuals companies is a different matter. It would be unreasonable to provide a breakdown detailing specific fees paid to any company that could affect their other contracts and/or competitive advantage. This is explicitly covered under exemption 2.13 of the Code of Practice on Access to Public Information, which deals with third party commercial confidences:-

- Information including commercial confidences (including grants and loans), trade secrets or intellectual property whose unwarranted disclosure would harm the competitive position of a third party.