



Request

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, access to documents and information relating to the contracts of the creative directors involved in the Haigh Hall project, which, as per recent developments, have not been renewed halfway through the project.

Specifically, I request the following:

1. Copies of any contractual agreements (or excerpts) between Wigan Council and the creative directors associated with the Haigh Hall project.
2. Any documents, emails, meeting minutes, or correspondence related to the decision not to renew these contracts.
3. Any evaluations or performance assessments concerning the involvement of the creative directors in the project.

Response

1. The Council confirms that it holds this information. However the Council is refusing to disclose this information as it believes the information is exempt under s43 of the Freedom of information Act 2000 .

This provides that information is exempt information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the authority, holding the information. The contract discloses terms of engagement, contractual provisions and payment arrangements all of which are considered to be commercially sensitive .

The council has considered the public interest test and balanced the need for transparency and openness against and with the need to maintain commercial contracts, negotiation and appropriate terms . On balance the authority believes that to disclose the contractual terms of third parties and the Council would affect its ability to negotiate and enter into contracts with appropriate terms that ultimately affects the tax paying public .

2. The Contract expired on 30th September 2024 and a decision was made by the Project Leader, James Winterbottom, Director for Strategy and Innovation not to renew the contract under his delegated powers which do not require a written record
3. No such evaluations nor performance assessments were undertaken although regular meetings were held with the creative Directors