

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (“the Act”)
Section 17**

REFUSAL NOTICE

TO: East Cowes Town Council

OF: ecowes.townhall@btconnect.com

The Isle of Wight Council (“the Council”) refuse your request dated 13 October for the following information held by the Council :

- submitted documents for all companies/individuals tendering for the contract

The reasons for the Council’s decision are as follows:

The information you have requested is considered **confidential information and is therefore exempt under section 41 of Part II of the Act.**

The information was obtained from third parties as part of a tendering process on the understanding that the information was provided in confidence. It is the council’s belief that the release of this information would constitute a breach of confidentiality. The information was provided to the authority in circumstances where the third party could reasonably expect the information to be held confidentially and they have not consented to the disclosure.

In addition, we believe that the information is also **commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt under section 43 of Part II of the Act.**

The information has been provided by a third party and it is the Council’s belief that the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the interests of both the Council, and the third parties, in its commercial activities. It is our view that the release of this information would be likely to provide assistance to other companies competing in this field. The information is therefore exempt under Section 43(2) of the Act. The release of this information could have a detrimental impact on the way the Council conducts its business and could damage its reputation with its customers.

The Council has considered the public interest test in this case, and is of the opinion that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in providing the information. Those parties that carry out business with the Council need to be assured that confidential information will remain protected from the public eye.

Signed  Date 01/11/2017