

15 March 2023

Dear

ATISN 17161 - Alma Economics

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 15 February 2023.

You requested:

- Can you let me know how many projects/commissions have Alma Economics received from the Welsh Government over the last 10 years, detailing costs and what the projects were for.
- Why was Alma Economics given the contract to conduct a review into Land Transaction Tax in Wales? Can you outline the criteria they met and why a Wales-based company wasn't approved.

Our response

Please see our response at Annex A below.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Annex A

Question 1: Can you let me know how many projects/commissions have Alma Economics received from the Welsh Government over the last 10 years, detailing costs and what the projects were for.

Our response:

Please see attached an excel document following a search on the Welsh Government SAP finance system for all purchase orders paid to Alma Economics from 01 April 2013 to date. Column B identifies what the project was for under the Product Category description, column E the date and column F identifies the value.

Question 2: Why was Alma Economics given the contract to conduct a review into Land Transaction Tax in Wales? Can you outline the criteria they met and why a Wales-based company wasn't approved.

Our response:

Contract Title: Land Transaction Tax Act independent review **C092/2021/2022**

In accordance with Welsh Government's standard procurement practice, the procurement was conducted as an under FTS through the open procedure via the Bravo e-tendering portal, following advertisement on the Sell2Wales portal. The core principles of fairness, transparency and equal treatment of suppliers apply to all public sector procurement activities and we are unable to restrict bids from Wales-based companies only. Welsh Government contract award criteria is always based on Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) which is based on a mix of quality and price criteria, with an weighting appropriate applied for the particular contract. The criteria and weightings applied to this contract were as follows:

Commercial: 20% Lowest Price.

Technical: 80%:

| Technical Criteria Weightings | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Section Title | | Section Weight |
| Question Number | Question Title | Question Weight |
| Criteria 1 | Please provide a detailed research design and methodology that demonstrates how the aims of this project will be met. | 35% |
| Criteria 2 | Please provide a detailed description of the resources to be deployed, task allocation, and time allocated to the project for each team member. | 20% |
| Criteria 3 | Please provide a proposal for overall management of the project. | 15% |

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| Criteria 4 | Please demonstrate your understanding of the policy and legislative environment based on your reading of the specification, your experience and existing evidence. | 10% |
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Alma Economics Limited were the highest scoring bidder and awarded the contract following a moderated scoring meeting agreed by the evaluation panel consisting of 3 evaluators. The contract award notice is attached.