

17 July 2023

Dear

ATISN 18620 FOI request

Thank you for your request, which I received on 19 June 2023. You asked:

- For an outline of any work commissioned from Beaufort Research by the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, itemising individual pieces of work.
- Whether Beaufort Research was paid for the work and, if so, how much per item of work.
- Whether the work was tendered and, if so, how many other organisations bid to conduct the work commissioned, the date when the work was tendered, and the means of tendering.

Our response

Outline of any work commissioned from Beaufort Research by the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, itemising individual pieces of work.

Beaufort Research has been contracted to undertake a programme of quantitative and qualitative research and engagement to gather the views of citizens in Wales about the options for Wales' constitutional future.

Whether Beaufort Research was paid for the work and, if so, how much per item of work.

The contract is in progress. The total cost, on completion, is expected to be £156,025 (excluding vat). The total comprises an original contract of £114,790 (excluding vat), plus an extension of £41,235 (excluding vat).

Whether the work was tendered and, if so, how many other organisations bid to conduct the work commissioned, the date when the work was tendered, and the means of tendering.

The work was tendered under the Welsh Government's Communications and Marketing framework, Lot 6 research and evaluation, on 25 August 2022. The tendering process was undertaken solely by the Commission's secretariat (civil servants), with the support of other Welsh Government officials, following the Welsh Government's procurement procedures.

One other organisation bid for the contract. The assessment of bids was undertaken by members of the Commission's secretariat and a Welsh Government official from outside the secretariat to provide an independent perspective.

Members of the Commission and its Expert Panel were informed of the outcome after the decision had been reached. One member of the Commission (Co-chair Professor Laura McAllister) declared an interest and confirmed she would take no part in any discussions about the engagement contract which could materially benefit Beaufort Research.

Following contract, the secretariat identified further geographical areas for engagement activity, which would involve extending the contract with Beaufort Research. This was agreed with Co-chair Rowan Williams. The process for extending the contract was undertaken by the Commission's secretariat and was compliant with the Welsh Government's procurement procedures.

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,