

8th June 2023

Dear

ATISN 17472 – Spend on Succorfish and Huw James Contracts

Thank you for your request which I received on 16th May. You asked for:

1) Consultancy

- a) How the Fisheries Department, have procured Hugh James & when? Please provide Contract Notice Reference or Contract Award reference. I have undertaken extensive searches and I have not been able to find this information. I would be grateful if you could navigate me to the contract Notice and Contract Award Notice
- b) WG are required to publish all expenditure over £25k, I note this is being published on a monthly basis; [Welsh Government expenditure over £25,000 | GOV.WALES](#)
- c) How can we understand total spend per annum per contract e.g. How much Welsh Fisheries are spending with Hugh James.

2) VMS Succorfish Contract

- a) When WG entered into a contract with Succorfish.
- b) The procurement route undertaken to enter into this contract (which year) and for initial contract term.
- c) During the tender process, what evaluation was applied with Quality & Price.
- d) Number of tenders received.
- e) What questions were asked during the tender to ensure that the Succorfish were the most MEAT and achieving VFM for the fisherman of Wales.
- f) Contract value to date, contract spend per annum since being introduced / mandated since approx. 2012
- g) When this contract was last advertised in accordance to PCR regulations 2015.
- h) If over PCR thresholds, the Contract Notice & Award Reference
- i) As a fisherman, I have been mandated to use Succorfish since at least 2014, how has the market been tested and ensured compliance to the PCR Regulations over the past 9 – 10 years.
- j) Again, I have searched extensively, please can you navigate me to the contract notices and award notices.
- k) If this has not been tendered, how has the spend been approved to ensure compliance to expenditure thresholds since being implemented. How many Single tenders have been completed?

Our response

Q1. Consultancy

- a. Hugh James solicitors were contracted following a tendering exercise in both 2016 and 2018 through the NPS Framework.

Contract Notice can be found at

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Authority/Notice_PubView.aspx?ID=JUL338893

Contract Award Notice can be found at

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Authority/Notice_PubView.aspx?ID=JAN356579

- b. No information requested
- c. Total Spend with Hugh James per financial year is as follows

Year	Total Spend (inc VAT)
2017-18	£26401.96
2018-19	£32508.60
2019-20	£38472.71
2020-21	£13675.08
2021-22	£20501.04
2022-23	£32433.60
2023 -	£6386.16

Q2. VMS Succorfish Contract

- a. Welsh Government entered a contract with Succorfish in 2014 for access to their Graphical User Interface (GUI).
- b. Succorfish were the single provider to data on their system.
- c. Succorfish were the single provider to data on their system.
- d. No information recorded.
- e. Succorfish were the single provider to data on their system.
- f. Total spend on access to Succorfish GUI per annum

Year	Total Spend (inc VAT)
2014-15	£6000
2015-16	£6000
2016-17	£6000
2017-18	£6000
2018-19	£6000
2019-20	£14,400
2020-21	£14,400

- g. Succorfish were the single provider to data on their system
- h. Contract awarded under Departure as only Succorfish could provide access to their GUI.
- i. Information not recorded
- j. Information not recorded
- k. Contract awarded under Departure as only Succorfish could provide access to their GUI.

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