

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 3:11 PM

Subject: Freedom of information request ref - 142061 - response

Somerset Direct Reference: 3246021

Internal Reference: 142061

Date request received: 26/07/2015

Date response due: 21/08/2015

Date of actual response: 20/08/2015

Dear Mr Long,

I am writing in respect of your request for information from Somerset County Council which has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I confirm that we do hold the information you are seeking and we are able to provide it to you. Our response is detailed underneath your questions as follows.

My questions relate to Connecting Devon & Somerset Phase 2 contracts; the one that is now signed with Airband Ltd and the one with BT that was abandoned on June 26, 2015.

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Somerset County Council and Devon County Council Press Releases in recent weeks confirm that the Airband National Parks Phase 2 contract is funded with £4.6M of public money and that the CDS Board were offering BT £35M of public money for a Phase 2, 95% minimum coverage contract when the CDS Board terminated discussions with BT on June 26 stating that the two primary reasons for not proceeding are that BT would not start work on Phase 2 until 2017 and the work would not be completed until 2021/22.

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In a paper provided to the SCC Full Council Meeting July 15, (Paper 10, Page 10-5), CDS Board Member, Paula Hewitt states:

"SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) through its sub department Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has allocated a second tranche of funding totalling £22.75 million to the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Programme, under the title of the Superfast Extension Programme (SEP). A condition of the funding was that it had to be matched on a pound for pound basis. CDS has not only been able to match this funding allocation, through contributions from upper tier local authorities, the LEP and District Councils, but it has exceeded it with over £25m having been raised to date. BDUK has agreed to fully match this amount."

Paula Hewitt suggests in this paper that the fully matched funding available for Phase 2 is £50M but the above mentioned press releases account for only £39.6M (=£35M + £4.6M), leaving £10.4M of public funds unaccounted for.

Please provide the following information:

For the Phase 2 Contract with Airband for the two National Parks, Dartmoor and Exmoor:

-) A breakdown of the £4.6M contract value showing how much of this comes from the BDUK £22.75M Phase 2 allocation, and how much of this is match funding provided by the HoSWLEP, how much is match funding provided by the National Park Authorities and how much is a supplier contribution from Airband Ltd.

Supplier	Contribution (£)
Devon County Council and Somerset County Council	1,400,000
DCMS / BDUK	2,100,000
Heart of the SW Local Enterprise Partnership	700,000
Dartmoor/Exmoor National Park Authority	130,000
West Somerset Council	70,000
Airband contribution	485,000
Total	4,885,000

For the Phase 2 Contract with BT for the rest of Devon & Somerset that was abandoned on June 26:

-) A breakdown of the £35M funding on offer to BT as of June 26, when negotiations with BT broke down, detailing how much of the £22.75M allocated from BDUK had been matched, the amount of match funding provided by the HoSW LEP and the amount of match funding committed to Phase 2 by each named District & Borough Council in Devon & Somerset.

Source	Confirmed Amount (£)	Pending Amount (£)	
Devon and Somerset County Councils	2,780,000	1,400,000	
Heart of the South West LEP	9,500,000	4975000	
Bath and North East Somerset	200,000	0	
North Somerset	200,000	0	
Mendip DC	400,000	0	
Sedgemoor DC	340,000	0	
South Somerset DC	640,000	0	
Taunton Dean BC	380,000	0	
West Somerset DC	170,000	70,000	
Exmoor National Park	0	130,000	
Private Sector / Community Investment	0	3,000,000	
	14,610,000	9,575,000	
BDUK	19,885,000	5,300,000	
Total	34,495,000	14,875,000	49,370,000

(2) A breakdown of the £50M that Paula Hewitt told Somerset County Council was available (as above) before negotiations with BT broke down together with an explanation of what happened to the missing £10.4M. Please again provide details of how much BDUK were offering and how this was being matched, the amount of match funding provided by the HoSW LEP and the amount of match funding committed to the Phase 2 contract by each named District & Borough Council in Devon & Somerset.

Please note that there is no missing £10.4m, as show by the table below.

Source	Confirmed Amount (£)	Pending Amount (£)
Devon and Somerset County Councils	2,780,000	1,400,000
Heart of the South West LEP	9,500,000	4975000
Bath and North East Somerset	200,000	0
North Somerset	200,000	0
Mendip DC	400,000	0
Sedgemoor DC	340,000	0
South Somerset DC	640,000	0
Taunton Dean BC	380,000	0
West Somerset DC	170,000	70,000
Exmoor National Park	0	130,000
Private Sector / Community Investment	0	3,000,000
	14,610,000	9,575,000
BDUK	19,885,000	5,300,000
Total	34,495,000	14,875,000

If you feel your request has not been answered in sufficient detail or if you wish to clarify the information given, please contact me and I will be happy to address the issues you raise.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, or the information you have received, you can ask for an internal review of our decision.

Please send your request to:

Peter Grogan, Information Governance Team, Somerset County Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY or email informationgovernance@Somerset.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number **142061** in any future communications.

An internal review will then be carried out and we will write to you with the results of our investigation. If you are not content with the outcome of our review, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (www.ico.gov.uk) for an appeal. The Information commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's

Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Finally, please be aware that your response will appear, without your contact details, on the Council's website at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/disclosurelog>

Yours Sincerely,

Victoria Baxter

Information Request Team

email: informationrequest@somerset.gov.uk

Telephone: 01823 359560

Somerset County Council, Post Point: PP B3E 2, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY

URL: www.somerset.gov.uk

FOI Disclosure Log URL: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/disclosurelog>

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