



27 September 2023

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████████████████████

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Dear ██████████

**Re: Freedom of Information request ref CA257**

Thank you for your request for information received on 30 August 2023. The response is given below:

1. *What is the total funding amount awarded to CPCA by the DfE or any other authority for 'Skills Bootcamp' training in Wave 3 or up until the financial year ending on March 31st, 2023?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined secured £4.9mil in grant funding to deliver Skills Bootcamps during the 2022-23 Financial Year.

2. *What is the total funding amount awarded to CPCA by the DfE or any other authority for 'Skills Bootcamp' training in Wave 4 or up until the financial year ending on March 31st, 2024?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority secured £2.8mil in grant funding to deliver Skills Bootcamps during the 2023-24 Financial Year.

3. *What is the total funding amount awarded to CPCA under the 'Digital' category by the DfE or any other authority for 'Skills Bootcamp' training in Wave 4 or up until the financial year ending on March 31st, 2024?*

The funding awarded to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is not specific to just the Digital category and can be used across several sector categories.

4. *What is the total number of learners who have participated in 'Skills Bootcamp' training programs funded by CPCA in Wave 3 or up until the financial year ending on March 31st, 2023?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority does hold the information you have requested but for the reasons set below will not be disclosing it.

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides an exemption for information that is intended to be published in the future.

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- *Information is exempt if, at the time when the public authority receives a request for it:*
- *the public authority holds the requested information; o the public authority intends the information to be published at some future date, whether that date is determined or not; and*
- *in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information until its planned publication.*

Link to ICO guidance: [information-intended-for-future-publication-and-research-information-sections-22-and-22a-foi.pdf \(ico.org.uk\)](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-data-protection-act-2018/information-intended-for-future-publication-and-research-information-sections-22-and-22a-foi.pdf)

The exemption applies for the following reasons: The data has not yet been verified by Department for Education but will be published when it has.

#### Public Interest Test Reasons

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has considered whether the public interest is maintaining this exemption is outweighed by the public interest in disclosure.

The following reasons have been considered in favour of disclosure: it would not be in the public interest to publish inaccurate or misleading data especially as there are plans for the data to be published once it has been verified.

Balanced against this are the following reasons against disclosure: data has not been verified.

On balance the Combined Authority considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Your request for this information is therefore refused.

5. *What is the total number of learners who have achieved milestone 3 in 'Skills Bootcamp' training programs funded by CPCA in Wave 3 or up until the financial year ending on March 31st, 2023?*

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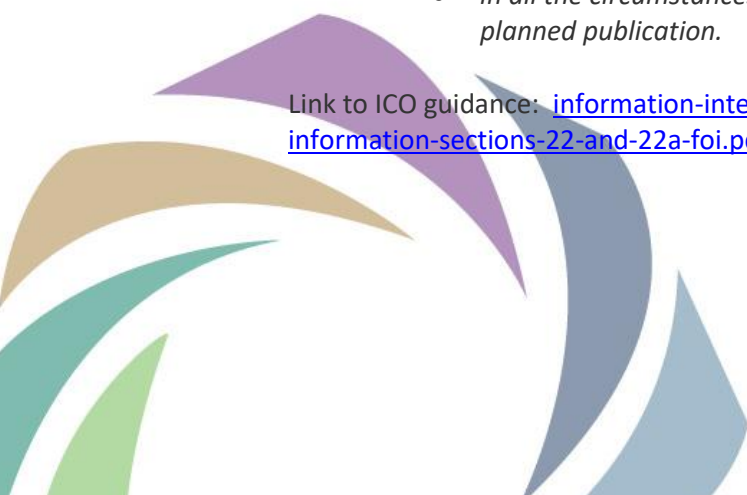
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On balance the Combined Authority considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Your request for this information is therefore refused.

7. *How many training providers are on the Skills Bootcamp procurement list for Skills Bootcamps at the moment?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority does not have a procurement list for Skills Bootcamps. Currently, the Combined Authority contracts with 12 Training Providers to deliver Wave 4 Skills Bootcamps.

8. *How many training providers are on the Skills Bootcamp procurement list for Digital Skills Bootcamps at the moment?*

As stated in the answer to Q7, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority do not have a pre-qualified list of training providers for Skills Bootcamps.

9. *Could you please provide the final pricing details, including the cost per learner or any associated fees, of the training providers who were selected as successful bidders for the Skills Bootcamp programs funded by CPCA in the most recent procurement round?*

Contract values are published on our website on an Officer Decision Notice (ODN)

Link to website page: [CMIS > Forward Plan, Mayoral and Officer Decision Notices > Mayoral and Officer Decision Notices](#)

- ODN388-2023 [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)
- and for Wave 4 ODN407-2023 [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Final pricing, cost per learner and associated fees are not covered in our overall contract award.

10. Could you please provide the number of training providers or organisations that submitted responses for the Skills Bootcamp programs in the most recent procurement round conducted by CPCA?

24 Training Providers/organisations submitted responses.

11. Can you please provide the names of all training providers or organisations that submitted responses for the Skills Bootcamp programs in the most recent procurement round conducted by CPCA?

The requested information is held by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority but it is felt that the information is classed as commercial sensitivity and disclosure of the information would severely prejudice the commercial interests of the company. The Information Commissioner's guidance on the commercial interests is below:

[Section 43 - Commercial interests | ICO](#)

In order for this exemption to be engaged the following criteria must be met:

- *the actual harm which the public authority alleges would, or would be likely to, occur if the withheld information was disclosed has to relate to the applicable interests within the relevant exemption;*
- *the public authority must be able to demonstrate that some causal relationship exists between the potential disclosure of the information being withheld and the prejudice which the exemption is designed to protect. Furthermore, the resultant prejudice which is alleged must be real, actual or of substance; and*
- *it is necessary to establish whether the level of likelihood of prejudice being relied upon by the public authority is met – ie disclosure 'would be likely' to result in prejudice or disclosure 'would' result in prejudice.*

The guidance explains that:

*"would...prejudice" means that prejudice is more probable than not, ie that there is a more than 50% chance of the disclosure causing the prejudice, even though it is not absolutely certain that it would do so. "Would be likely to prejudice" is a lower threshold. It means that there must be more than a hypothetical or remote possibility of prejudice occurring; there must be a real and significant risk of prejudice, even though the probability of prejudice occurring is less than 50%.*

And defines "commercial interest" as follows:

*"...a commercial interest relates to a person's ability to participate competitively in a commercial activity, i.e. the purchase and sale of goods or services."*

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to public interest considerations.

It is the Combined Authority's view that disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the Authority and the training providers.

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Were the Authority to disclose the information requested it could affect its ability to contract services at a competitive rate in the future by making potential bidders reluctant to engage with procurement exercises for fear of any commercially sensitive information provided in their bid being disclosed to their competitors. Parties who were well placed to submit competitive bids in future procurement exercises might therefore decide not to do so thereby undermining the Authority's ability to procure goods and services at competitive rates and prejudicing its commercial interests.

The Section 43(2) exemption is therefore engaged. The Combined Authority must therefore consider the balance of public interest in deciding whether to disclose the information.

There is clearly a general public interest in public bodies being open, transparent and accountable particularly in the context of the expenditure of public funds.

However, there is also a public interest in public bodies being able to procure goods and services effectively without potential bidders being reluctant to participate for fear of their commercially sensitive information being disclosed to competitors.

On balance the Combined Authority takes the view that the public interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption and withholding the information, in particular the arguments about the likely prejudice to both the Authority's and participants' commercial interests, outweigh the public interest arguments in favour of disclosure.

Your request for this information is therefore refused on the basis that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the Act.

12. *Could you please provide the ranking information, including the top 5 ranked bidders, for all training providers or organisations that submitted responses for the Skills Bootcamp programs in the most recent procurement round conducted by CPCA?*


The requested information is held by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority but it is felt that some of the information is classed as commercial sensitivity and disclosure of the information would severely prejudice the commercial interests of the company.

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Information on the successful supplier is given below.

<b>Successful Supplier</b>	<b>Lot</b>
Impact Futures	3a
Inspire Education Group	3c
JHA Training	2a
Netcom	1a, 1b, 1c and 1d
Purple Beard	1e
Unique Training Solutions	3b

13. *How many training providers have submitted 'direct applications' to CPCA so far to deliver skills bootcamps?*

Currently, one Training Provider has submitted a direct application to The Combined Authority for Wave 4.

14. *How many training providers have submitted 'direct applications' to CPCA for delivering skills bootcamps within the 'Digital' category?*

No training providers have submitted direct applications to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to deliver Wave 4 in the digital category.

15. *Could you please let us know when the next call-off/tender is anticipated, and what is the allocated budget for this upcoming tender for Skills Bootcamps?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is not yet aware of when the window for funding will open nor what the potential funding allocation for the next financial year will be.

16. *Can you provide information on any collaborations or partnerships that CPCA has established with employers, industry associations, or educational institutions to enhance the effectiveness of Skills Bootcamp programs?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority works closely with a number of key local stakeholders across all of our Skills provision, such as Growth Works with Skills, Job Centre Plus and Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce.

17. *Are there any specific eligibility criteria or preferences for training providers when selecting recipients for Skills Bootcamp funding?*

Eligibility criteria for Skills Bootcamps provision is detailed in the funding rules which can be found here:

[Skills Bootcamps - funding and performance management guidance for wave 3 contracts 2023 to 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141423/skills-bootcamps-funding-and-performance-management-guidance-for-wave-3-contracts-2023-to-2024.pdf)





Additionally, there may be prior attainment requirements set by an individual provider depending on the Skills Bootcamp course requirements. Furthermore, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority funds those who live and work in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough postcode area. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority can consider co-funding where an employer who has a base or conducts works in the Cambridge and Peterborough area wants to upskill an existing employee who may not reside in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area as this benefits our local employer by increasing the skills within their organisation.

18. *How does CPCA handle the allocation of funding for different types of Skills Bootcamp programs? Are there any specific priorities or considerations in this allocation process?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority commission regional provision in line with economic demands, including analysing vacancy data, employment trends and consider the availability of wider skills provision that is funded either nationally or through our devolved funding streams. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Employment and Skills Strategy and the Local Skills Improvement Plan are key local documents that guide our commissioning of skills Bootcamps.

19. *Are there any plans or initiatives in place to expand the scope or reach of Skills Bootcamp programs funded by CPCA in the coming years?*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority plans to continue offering Skills Bootcamp provision in alignment with the Employment and Skills Strategy, Local Skills Improvement Plan and employer demand providing it secures annual funding through the DfE. The scope of the provision is dependent on the amount of funding secured.

20. *Could you provide a breakdown of the courses awarded under DfE Skills Bootcamp funding for Wave 3?*

<b>Course Title – Wave 3</b>
Level 3 Software Developer
Level 2 Electric Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
Level 3 Electric Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
Level 4 Electric Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
Level 3 Cyber Security
Level 2 Trowel Trades Bricklaying
Level 3 Front End Web Development
Level 3 Construction Site Supervisory
Level 2 Civil Engineering and Groundworks
Level 3 Data Analysis
Level 3 Digital Marketing
Level 3 Project Management
Level 3 Award in Domestic Retrofit Advice
Level 4 Domestic Retrofit Assessor
Level 5 Retrofit Coordination and Risk Management

Level 5 Games Programming
Level 3+ Welding Inspection Pathways
Level 5 Full Stack Coding

21. *Could you provide a breakdown of the courses awarded under DfE Skills Bootcamp funding for Wave 4?*

Following assessment of need, contract extensions were issued to a number of existing training providers who Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was working with under Wave 3 for Skills Bootcamp Provision. This included:

<b>Skills Bootcamp Courses Wave 4 (Contract Extensions)</b>
Level 2 Civil Engineering and Groundworks
Level 3 Data Analysis
Level 3 Project Management
Level 2 Electric Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
Level 3 Electric Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
Level 4 Electric Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
Level 5 Front End Web Development
Level 5 Games Technologies
Level 3+ Welding Inspection Pathways

The following were awarded following Wave 4 Open Tender Exercise:

<b>Skills Bootcamp Courses Wave 4 (Newly Procured)</b>
Level 4 Data analysis
Level 3 Digital Marketing
Level 3 IT Technician
Level 3 Cyber Security
Level 4 Digital Accessibility
Level 2 Insulation Installation
Level 3 Leadership and Management
Level 5 Leadership and Management
Level 3 in Care

22. *Could you provide a breakdown of how much funding was allocated to each course under DfE Skills Bootcamps funded in Wave 3?*

Link to website page: [CMIS > Forward Plan, Mayoral and Officer Decision Notices > Mayoral and Officer Decision Notices](#)

- ODN388-2023 [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)
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23. Could you provide a breakdown of how much funding was allocated to each course under DfE Skills Bootcamps funded in Wave 4?

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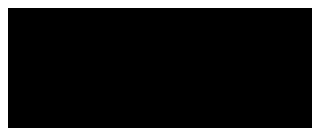
- ODN407-2023 [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

I hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to us via our contact us email address: [democratic.services@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk) or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely



**Sue Hall**  
Data Protection Officer



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