



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
Pathfinder House
St Marys Street, Huntingdon
PE29 3TN

19th March 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information request ref CA393

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 19th February 2025.

Request

I am requesting information on how mayoral combined authorities (MCAs) manage exemptions to subcontracting limits for further education and skills funding. This request is made for journalistic purposes, and I do not hold a particular view on whether subcontracting is beneficial or detrimental. However, I have heard from providers who feel that national subcontracting limits have negatively impacted the sector's ability to deliver high-quality education in the most effective way. I will, of course, contact your media team with a full enquiry before publishing any news story, as would always be expected.

For each year since your authority took on devolved control of adult education funding (or since the subcontracting exemption policy was introduced, if later), please provide annual data on:

1. Whether your authority has its own rules or policies regarding exemptions to the **25% subcontracting limit** for:

- Adult education budget (AEB) funded training (19+ training provision)

Yes – According to our funding rules, which states that You cannot subcontract more than 25% of your contract value. Exceptional Cases for exceeding 25% will be considered for Local Authority Learning Organisations only but capped at 35% and will require a business case as part of the approval process. (The Business Case is for Local Authority only).

- Apprenticeships

No

- Any other relevant funding streams under your control

No

2. The number of providers that applied for an exemption to subcontract beyond this limit each year.
One
3. The number of providers granted such an exemption in each year.
One
4. The total value of subcontracted provision under these exemptions, or the nearest available estimate based on forecasts submitted by providers.
34%, equivalent to £703,783.95 for a single provider.
5. Whether any providers have been granted a **complete exemption** from the subcontracting limit, if applicable.

Additionally, regarding **16-19 training provision**, while this remains under national policy, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether you collect or hold any relevant data on exemptions within your region.

N/A

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 or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, 2nd Floor, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN within 40 days of the date of this letter.

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 via their complaints portal [FOI and EIR complaints | ICO](#) or writing to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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



Sophie Purvis
Data Protection and Information Governance Assistant