EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

The Director-General

Brussels, REGIO.DG02/TL/sf - D(2015) 4669914

Mr Klaus ZINSER
Hauptsraβe 8D
D-88427 Bad Schussenried
Deutschland

By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Subject:

Your application for access to documents - Ref GestDem

No 2015/4929 - DG REGIO

Dear Mr Zinser,

I refer to your e-mail dated 15 September 2015 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 16 September 2015 under the above mentioned reference number.

Your request refers to "All Spendings to: Coffey International Development Limited e.g. tender, signed contract and delivered work".

My services have identified the following documents, which fall within the scope of your request:

- the tender specifications as regards the Evaluation study on good practices in EU Regional Policy communication 2007-2013 and beyond (service contract signed within the scope of Framework Contract of DG RTD No RTD-L5-2010-Impact Assessment),
- the financial offer of Coffey International Development Limited,
- the signed contract,
- the Evaluation study on good practices in EU Regional Policy communication 2007-2013 and beyond.

I enclose a copy of the tender specifications.

Concerning the financial offer by Coffey International Development Limited related to the above mentioned service contract, having examined the document under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of this Regulation.

Access to this document cannot be granted as it contains commercially sensitive business information of the company that submitted it. Disclosure of this document would undermine the protection of the commercial interests of that company, as putting these information in the public domain would affect its competitive position on the market. Therefore the exception laid down in Article 4(2) first indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 applies to this document.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to this document. Nevertheless it is not possible to grant access even to an expunged version of the document, as it is entirely covered by the exceptions.

The exceptions laid down in Article 4(2) apply unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure of the document. We have examined whether there could be an overriding public interest in disclosure but we were not able to identify such an interest.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission Secretary-General Transparency unit SG-B-4 BERL 5/327 B-1049 Brussels or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

As regards the signed contract, the document to which you have requested access contains personal data. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable. According to Article 8(b) of this Regulation, personal data shall only be transferred to recipients if they establish the necessity of having the data transferred to them and if there is no reason to assume that the legitimate rights of the persons concerned might be prejudiced.

We consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established and that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the expunged data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the rules of personal data protection, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position as explained above.

Finally, the evaluation report is publicly available online under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/communication/how-to/

Yours sincerely,

Walter Deffaa