

Please contact: Access to Information Team

Email: [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net)

Direct tel: 01782 872648

Chorley House  
Lancashire Business Park  
Centurion Way  
Leyland  
PR26 6TT

Tel: 01772 214232  
[www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk](http://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk)

15 March 2023

Dear

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Ref no: FOI-2912-L&SC**

Thank you for your request dated 14 February 2023.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. I understand that NECS were appointed to evaluate the tenders in the procurement process that you initiated.

Were they aware that you had a duty to involve the public in this process?

**Yes**

2. Did you give them all the feedback you had from the above mentioned letter and questionnaire (which was actually inadequate as an exercise of public consultation, as you have acknowledged)?

**Yes, all the engagement feedback was used to inform the service specification development and was included within the tender process.**

3. Did you include the results from the 2022 GP Patients Survey for Withnell Health Centre and SSP (lowest, average or highest scores of their approx. 40 practices)?

**No, this information does not form part of the procurement evaluation process**

4. When deciding on a preferred bidder what percentage of the overall decision is down to public consultation?

**Patient and market engagement is used to inform and develop the service specification and technical questions and is not a deciding factor in regards to a preferred bidder.**

5. How do you score patient opinion in your points-based system?

**Patient engagement is fed into the service specification development. We do not score public opinion as part of the formal procurement process.**

6. Has a due diligence exercise on SSP Health been undertaken by yourselves to check their claims in their bid?

**Please find enclosed an extract from the Invitation to Tender document:**

**STAGE 1 – Compliance**

**Submitted bids are checked for completeness ensuring:**

- All documents as requested have been uploaded to the e-Tendering portal
- All questions in the Single Procurement Document (SPD) have been answered
- Bidders have included costs within the available financial threshold (if appropriate)
- Financial statements are not assessed at this stage and only the highest scoring bidder from stage 2 has the full financial validation check at stage 3

**STAGE 2 – Capability and Capacity**

**Bids are evaluated by the identified service specific evaluators for Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) and also evaluation of ITT Document 8 Financial Model Template (FMT) as outlined in ITT Schedule 6a Financial Evaluation Criteria Handbook.**

**Bidders must:**

- Have the necessary resources to undertake the contract
- Achieve a minimum % requirement as outlined within the ITT documents (i.e. a minimum of 50% from the 90% for non-finance related criteria. Therefore 50% of the 90% requires a minimum score of 45% to proceed.) If this is required but not achieved the bidder will not be awarded a contract
- Note: No feedback is given to bidders at this stage of the procurement process in relation to scores

**STAGE 3 – Economic and Financial Standing of the Highest Scoring Bidder Scoring of Capability and Capacity Financial Assessment – Due Diligence for Highest Scoring Bidder(s) only**

- Evidence from self-certifications (stage 1) will be validated at this stage (stage 3) for the highest scoring bidder only, however all bidders must ensure they submit the evidence by the tender deadline.
  - The financial statements of the bidder with the highest combined score identified at stage 2 will be validated to ensure that the bidder meets the requirements as set out in the ITT
  - If the highest scoring bidder fails the financial assessment (the financial statements) or any of the requirements for validation as outlined in schedule 9 of the ITT at this stage, the bidder with the second highest score will be assessed and so on
  - Bidders will not be informed until the highest scoring bidder has met the financial requirements and evidence verification from stage 1 as required. After this stage the Recommended Bidder will be identified following approval from the Contracting Authority and the intention to award will commence.
7. Have they got permanent GPs, nurses and other staff lined up to take over the running of our Health Centre in April or will they be relying on their pool of locums, call centre and agency staff? (the current team at the centre have stated that they will not work for SSP Health)

**This detail is typically discussed with the new provider during mobilisation. The ICB has made the decision to abandon the procurement process and therefore there will not be any changes as a result of the procurement in April 2023. For information, please see the ICB statement here:**

**<https://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/whc-220223>**

8. Are you aware that SSP Health Ltd (which is the company name on SSP Health's glossy website) no longer exists according to the Companies House register?

**The ICB are aware of this.**

### **Right of Appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

### **To request an internal review**

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net) or by post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery  
ICB Chief Executive**