

Our Reference: 2448

13/01/2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Enquiry: Information regarding Hunters Coaches Ltd

Thank you for contacting West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Combined Authority') with your request for information, received on 21/11/2025. Your request was:

"I am writing to request information regarding the authority's relationship with Hunters Coaches Ltd (trading as Hunters Coaches) regarding their provision of school transport services (specifically including, but not limited to, services for St Mary's School Menston). I am requesting the following two items:

1. The Active Contract (September 2025)

Please provide a full copy of the contract and Service Level Agreement (SLA) governing the services provided by Hunters Coaches Ltd as of September 2025.

I understand this is likely the contract referenced as "Batch 751 - School Transport Services," which has a listed start date of 1 September 2025. Regardless of the date the document was effectively signed or dated, I am requesting the specific agreement terms that apply to the service period commencing September 2025.

Please ensure the disclosure includes:

- * The Service Specification;*
- * Terms regarding service reliability and safety standards;*
- * The mechanism for penalties, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and contract termination.*



2. Correspondence (1 January 2023 – Present)

I request copies of all correspondence (including emails, letters, and meeting minutes) exchanged between WYCA and Hunters Coaches Ltd regarding:

- * All Service performance, failures, or delays;*
- * Complaints regarding St Mary's School Menston services;*
- * Clarification or enforcement of contractual obligations.*

Please limit the search for correspondence to the period between 1 January 2023 and the date of this request.

3. Advice and Assistance

If determining whether to disclose "informal" correspondence (Part 2) would cause this request to exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please prioritise providing the formal Contract/SLA (Part 1) first."

This request was handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), and I can confirm that the Combined Authority holds the information covered by your request. Please find contract documentation attached '*Ref 2448 - Sealed Batch 751 School Contract Hunters Coaches.pdf*'

You will notice that some of the information relating to the personal data of third parties has been redacted, where this is the case, you will see a grey box with the text 'Section 40(2) Personal Data'.

This is because some of the information held is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the FoIA, which prevents the release of personal data. Disclosure would contravene UK GDPR principle (a) because there is no lawful basis for processing or sharing the personal data as part of a Freedom of Information Request. This applies to the personal data of Combined Authority staff whose role is below that of director level.

We are also withholding information relating to 'Schedule 3 - Contract price', 'Schedule 4 - Contractor's tender submission', and 'Schedule 5 - Change control notice' and the correspondence requested between the Combined Authority and Hunters Coaches Ltd under Section 43(2) of the FOI Act, which exempts us from the general duty to release information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any entity, including the public authority holding the information.



Disclosure under the FoIA is to the world at large. Section 43 is a qualified exemption, and as such, we are required to assess the public interest in withholding this information against that of its release.

The Combined Authority is committed to openness and transparency and recognises the public interest in local government spending and activities; we have therefore taken into consideration the following:

- Contracts are awarded using public money which meets the FoIA 'Public Right to Know' requirements, ensuring transparency in terms of public expenditure.
- Disclosure could promote a better understanding of how the organisation makes use of public resources and how this is reflected in its terms of spending.
- Contractors are aware that commercial information is subject to the FoIA.

However, we also consider that this information is commercially sensitive as:

- Disclosure will put misleading information into the public domain regarding how operators and the Combined Authority work together to address performance issues, as this work is affected by multiple factors not outlined in the information. It would damage the Combined Authority's reputation if the published information gave an incorrect impression regarding how operators are treated; this may potentially discourage future bidders from tendering and would thus affect our ability to procure services to get the best value for public money.
- Disclosure is likely to adversely affect the operator's future ability to tender for commercial work on an equal footing with competitors as data could be used by competitors to undermine the operator and gain commercial advantage.
- Disclosing information around operator costs would also affect our ability as a public body to obtain value for money during future tendering processes; we recognise the public interest in being able to obtain value for money with regards to the use of public funds.

For these reasons above, we consider that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that of disclosure.

If you believe that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter.



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

For your information, there is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Officer

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