

Payal Panchal
Information Officer
Customer Resolution Team
Customer and Exchequer Services

accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk

Date: 14 November 2023

Ref: 18736101

Fraser Rickatson
Via email
frickatson@careengland.org.uk

Dear Fraser Rickatson

Re: Your information request

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on the 19 October 2023. This information is being provided as a statutory obligation under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

Pre-ambule:

To enable care providers to work effectively with Local Authorities (LAs) to meet their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments, the following information request looks to establish key information critical for Adult Social Care (ASC) providers to support LA to meet those commitments.

Q1. Please provide your LA definition for 'local' in regard to the procurement of goods and services. Note: if you do not have a specific definition, please offer guidance to ASC providers as to how they should consider this in regard to supporting your LA.

Q2. Please provide your LA definition for 'minority' in instances such as minority-owned businesses and similar contexts. Note: if you do not have a specific definition, please offer guidance to ASC providers as to how they should consider this in regard to supporting your LA.

Q3. Please state any energy commitments your LA are implementing over the next 1-3 years, and what you require from ASC providers to help achieve your LA commitments to net zero carbon ambitions etc.

Q4. Please can you provide a copy of, or a link to your current ESG policy statement, guidance, support and/or commitments or requirements as an LA.

Q5. Please provide information relating to any requirements necessary in respect of ESG for ASC providers to work with your LA, and state any weighting or scoring this may have on your decision to work with such ASC providers now or in the future.

Our response

1. In ASC, the definition of local depends on the service that is being procured and is defined within the relevant procurement documents. For example in our homecare procurements (2016 onwards), local has meant a registered office within a specified number of miles of the borough's boundaries, and for nursing care homes (2019) the tender document has offered contracting opportunities for homes within the borough's boundaries.

2. The council does not have a corporate definition for 'minority'. But the government's definition is:

Businesses are classified as 'majority led' by people from an ethnic minority if 50% or more of their leadership are from ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities). Businesses are classified as majority led by the white ethnic group if more than 50% of their leadership are from the white ethnic group.

This can be found using the link: <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/workforce-and-business/business/leadership-of-small-and-medium-enterprises/latest>

However, to note that for Southwark grants and VCS commissioning, in February 2022, Cabinet approved the decision (recommendation 3) that organisation's will be identified as Black Asian and minority ethnic led if the organisation self identifies as Black Asian or minority ethnic led and 75% of the governing body, ie board of trustees, directors, management committee, and 50% of the senior staff of the organisation, (key decision-makers) self-identify as being from that specific community or identity.

The report can be found using the link below:

<https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s104615/Report%20Grants%20and%20commissioning%20review.pdf>

3. The council has a commitment to be net zero by 2030. This includes halving our operational emissions by 2026. We do not have any specific requirements on ASC providers specifically, but would encourage all our partners to improve their sustainability and work to reduce their carbon emissions.

Information on Southwark's Climate Change Strategy and Plan can be found on the council's website, at the following link: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/climate-emergency/reaching-net-zero/our-plan-for-net-zero>

4. Please see Q3 above.

5. We encourage bidders to review Southwark's Climate Change Strategy and request bidders to share their own plans and commitments, which are evaluated and scored, although it is currently not a mandatory requirement. Weightings are project specific and may vary between 5 – 10%.

Please note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 Southwark Council ask not to receive unsolicited marketing communications.

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Your rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. You should request this review within two months of receiving this response, by contacting accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your appeal you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted our internal appeal procedure and you should contact her within two months of the outcome of the internal review. Further information on the Freedom of Information Act is available through the Information Commissioner's website at www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Payal Panchal
Information Officer