

Further to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act I am writing to you to provide you with the following information:

Item 13, Community Outcome Meeting (07.07.14), Interim Provider of SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) medical services

This information is provided in full, without redaction.

In responding to your request an exemption under the FOI Act was considered. This related to 'Commercial Interests' under Section 43 of the Act. The public interest in disclosure was found to outweigh that of non-disclosure in view of the importance of transparency in the contractual agreements which have been entered into, being able to demonstrate and explain how and why public money has been spent and being able to reassure members of the public that an effective service will continue to be provided to victims. The public interest in non-disclosure relates to potential damage being caused to an ongoing tender process (a regional procurement for SARC services for the Yorkshire and Humber region is currently out to tender).

The paper notes that 'West Yorkshire Police sought a provider of SARC services in 2013. The procurement failed ...' Within the context of this project, 'failure' relates to the completion of the procurement process without award of a contract. At the point of contract award a decision was taken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to suspend the award of a local contract and explore a regional contract in collaboration with other Yorkshire and Humber forces. It was anticipated that a regional contract would achieve benefits such as economies of scale, consistency in services for victims across Yorkshire and the Humber and greater resilience across the region. This decision was supported by the co-commissioners of NHS England.

The recommendation in the paper was agreed and SERCO were asked to continue to deliver forensic medical services for victims of sexual assault in West Yorkshire for the period 1 February to 31 March 2015.