

RESPONSE PROVIDED

East Midlands Combined County Authority
Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre
Saltergate
Chesterfield
S40 1UT

17/06/2025

Freedom of Information Request – Ref: FOI 63

Please describe the process that was undertaken in relation to the allocation of funds for the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer (YGT) which has been in made in the form of "Grants to Local Authorities and other suitably selected providers for the delivery of the key elements of the YGT programme". Given the sum of public funds involved, please explain why this procurement wasn't undertaken competitively and transparently in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

We can confirm that an informal expression of interest (EOI) process was undertaken to identify suitable delivery partners for the YGT programme. This process was designed to engage appropriate organisations capable of delivering the key elements of the YGT in line with the programme's strategic aims. The EOI process was designed to be open and transparent and was publicised across multiple channels to ensure broad awareness and participation.

The process invited potential delivery bodies to submit informal expressions of interest, outlining their capability, experience, and capacity to deliver against the programme's core objectives. Submissions were assessed against a set of predefined criteria, including geographical need, readiness to deliver, and alignment with the programme's intended outcomes.

The funding was provided in the form of grants, not contracts for services. As such, the process fell outside the scope of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Regulations apply to public contracts for goods, services, or works—not grants. Grant funding may be used where the intention is to support or stimulate activity that aligns with government objectives, rather than procure a specific service or outcome. Accordingly, the use of a non-competitive, informal process for allocating YGT funding was consistent with both legal requirements and Cabinet Office guidance on grant-making.

I hope this satisfies your request.

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you may write to request an internal review. The internal review will be carried out by someone who did not make the original decision, and they will re-assess how the Department handled the original request.

If you wish to request an internal review, please write or send an email to the Information Governance Team within two months of the date of this letter, at the following address:

Information Governance Team



East Midlands Combined County Authority
North Enterprise Gateway
Saltergate
Chesterfield
S40 1UT
e-mail: FOI@eastmidsdevo.org.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. You can find further details on how to do this via Information Commissioner's Office website: [FOI and EIR complaints | ICO](#).

Regards

Information Governance Team

East Midlands Combined County Authority