

RESPONSE PROVIDED

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

14/07/2025

Freedom of Information Request – Ref: FOI 67

1. Nature of the Funding and Legal Framework

The Youth Guarantee Trailblazer funding for programme delivery was awarded in the form of grants, not contracts for services. The primary purpose of this funding was to support and stimulate activity aligned with EMCCA's strategic objectives for youth progression, not to procure specific deliverables in return. As such, these arrangements fall outside the scope of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Procurement Act 2023, as well as the Subsidy Control Act 2022, which contains exemptions for schemes of this nature where funding is used for general economic interest or social outcomes.

This position aligns with guidance from the Cabinet Office and DBT, which confirms that grant-making (even above threshold values) does not in itself trigger public procurement requirements, provided the grant is not a disguised contract.

2. Approach to Competition, Openness, and Criteria

EMCCA took a structured and proportionate approach to identifying delivery partners:

- An Expression of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken to ensure the opportunity was open and transparent. The opportunity was shared publicly on social media and widely across regional networks, through our partner newsletters which reached local authorities, colleges, training providers, and community partners.
- Potential delivery bodies were invited to submit informal EOIs outlining their capability, readiness, and alignment with the programme's strategic objectives.
- Submissions were assessed internally against predefined criteria, including:
 - Geographical need
 - Organisational readiness
 - Strategic fit with Youth Guarantee aims
 - Value and reach of proposed activity
- This approach is consistent with Cabinet Office grant-making guidance, which allows for flexibility in award processes where the intention is not to purchase specific outputs, but rather to support aligned activity through trusted, experienced providers.

3. Subsidy Control

The grants awarded are not considered a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 because they are used for non-commercial, public service activities. Although the funding comes from public resources, it does not give any business a special advantage, is not targeted at specific companies or sectors, and does not affect competition or trade. Projects were designed with public policy objectives in mind and not to confer an undue advantage in a commercial sense. Internal legal advice confirmed this compliance during the programme design phase.

4. Information on Awards

We are happy to provide the following information:

- **List of Grant Recipients:**

A list of organisations awarded funding is provided below

GRANTEE	AMOUNT
Chesterfield College	£900,000
Nottingham College	£900,000
Nottingham City Council	£390,000
Derby City Council	£785,000
West Nottinghamshire College	£515,000
Derbyshire County Council	£126,928
Nottingham City Council	£100,000

Further information is available in the delivery update that was shared with the Skills & Employment Committee: [Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Delivery Update.pdf](#)

- **Copies of successful submissions vs un-successful submissions**

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 41(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to information provided in confidence. This exemption applies because:

- The submissions were provided to us by third-party organisations;
 - They contain information that was provided in circumstances where there was a clear and reasonable expectation of confidentiality; and
 - Disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence, potentially giving rise to legal action by the submitters.
- Section 41 is an absolute exemption meaning we are not required to carry out a public interest test.

- **Meeting Records and Evaluation Reports:**



Grant assessments were conducted based on established criteria; however, no formal evaluation meeting took place, and as such, there are no minutes available to share.

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