



Forestry Commission England

National Office

620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1EJ

fcengland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 0117 906 6000
Fax: 0117 931 2859

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

26 March 2012

Dear xxxxxxxx

Dalby Bike Hire Tender

Thank you for your interest in the bike hire business at Dalby. As you are aware there has been considerable interest in and some concern about the tender process.

In view of the concerns that have been raised we have reviewed the tender process and have concluded that it would be inappropriate to proceed with the award of the bike hire business at this time. This decision is based solely on the issues surrounding the interview process. We accept that in line with our obligations of transparency and equal treatment that derive from the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), we did not make it sufficiently clear that the interview was an integral and important part of the selection process.

However, we do not wish to delay awarding the cycle hire business opportunity longer than is absolutely necessary and will therefore be commencing a new tender process in the near future. We are confident that our assessment of the Expressions of Interest was correct and that the correct parties were invited to submit tenders. Therefore, we will take the process back to the Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage and issue a new set of documents to the bidders who were previously successful in proceeding to this stage. You are invited to retender and it is our intention to release new ITT documents on the 30 March 2012. The deadline for submission will be 19 April which takes account of the Easter period.



We will take the opportunity to include additional clear guidance about the interview process and the part it will play in the assessment of bids and the awarding of the business opportunity.

It may be of interest to you to know that you scored 49.5 out of 100 in the initial evaluation of the previous tender exercise.

To ensure that you have confidence that the tender assessment will be fair and not pre-judged a new interview panel is being formed and will be made up of senior members of the Forestry Commission who have not previously been involved in this tender process.

As you will appreciate, in light of the new tender process the disclosure of any relevant information at this time would potentially disrupt the fair running of the process and would not be in anyone's interests. We have received numerous requests for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, but we have taken the decision to publish full details of the tender process after the re-tender exercise is complete which means that no information will be released at this time. In doing this we are relying on Section 22(i)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act "information intended for future publication".

The current lease for the bike hire business was for a fixed period of three years and this period will end on 31 March 2012. When the retendering process is completed a new lease will be issued to the successful business. This will create the environment to enable a fair and open process for all parties.

I hope that you find the above process acceptable and I look forward to receiving your submission in due course.

Yours sincerely,

David Williamson
Head of Recreation, Development and External Affairs