



9th November 2023

CITB
Head Office
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

Email: information.governance@citb.co.uk
www.citb.co.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Request: 162023

Following your email dated 12th October 2023 requesting the following:

1)The Scottish Qualifications team that is based in CITB head office in Peterborough have recently been using consultants MH&A I think you said they were called. Can I ask why they have been brought in? Do we not have the skills in the current qualifications team to be able to discuss with the ministers? If we do not have these skills in the team then can I ask why we don't? Can I ask what process has been used to bring in MH&A? Was this put out to tender or were they just appointed? What knowledge does they have on Scottish Qualifications and what makes them experts in Scotland?

2)I would like to ask if there is a shortfall within CITB'S pension pot? I have heard from some reliable sources that there is a shortfall of around £40 million pounds. If this is found to be correct I would also ask how CITB proposes to make up any shortfall? If there is a shortfall I would ask how this has come about? What would the plans be to plug any deficit as this would require to come from working capital and not from any surplus collected from the industries levy as surplus is held in trust by CITB for the industries training requirements and for no other reason.

Although asked as 2 separate questions, we have broken down these questions into their constituent elements to make sure that we cover all aspects of these questions.

Therefore, the response is as follows:

- 1) The Scottish Qualifications team that is based in CITB head office in Peterborough have recently been using consultants MH&A I think you said they were called. Can I ask why they have been brought in?

This information is not held in a recorded format and does not fall under the remit of the FOI requirements.

- 2) Do we not have the skills in the current qualifications team to be able to discuss with the ministers?

This information is not held in a recorded format and does not fall under the remit of the FOI requirements

- 3) If we do not have these skills in the team then can I ask why we don't?

Please see our response to point 2 above.

- 4) Can I ask what process has been used to bring in MH&A? Was this put out to tender or were they just appointed?

MH&A were appointed on recommendation following work they had completed for another educational establishment. The initial contract was of a low level.

- 5) What knowledge does they have on Scottish Qualifications and what makes them experts in Scotland?

This information is not held in a recorded format and does not fall under the remit of the FOI requirements

- 6) I would like to ask if there is a shortfall within CITB'S pension pot?

There is no shortfall in the CITB Pension fund. The most recent published information regarding the CITB Pension fund can be found in the CITB Annual Report and Accounts 2021-2022 (Page 86) published on the CITB website:-

<https://www.citb.co.uk/media/dzpd4glv/citb-annual-report-and-accounts-2021-22-english.pdf>

“The 2019 triennial valuation indicated that the actuarial value of the assets helped by the scheme in total showed a surplus of £21m against the scheme liabilities on a statutory funding basis. There were no deficit funding contributions paid to the scheme in the 12-month period (2020-21: £Nil)“

- 7) I have heard from some reliable sources that there is a shortfall of around £40 million pounds. If this is found to be correct I would also ask how CITB proposes to make up any shortfall?

Please refer to our response to Point 6 above.

- 8) If there is a shortfall I would ask how this has come about?

Please refer to our response to Point 6 above.

- 9) What would the plans be to plug any deficit as this would require to come from working capital and not from any surplus collected from the industries levy as surplus is held in trust by CITB for the industries training requirements and for no other reason.

Please refer to our response to Point 6 above.

If you are unhappy with this response, or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting Adrian Beckingham, Strategy and Policy Director, CITB, Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Peterborough, PB2 8TY or email adrian.beckingham@citb.co.uk.

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. You can raise a complaint with the ICO via their portal www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints or by contacting them at



Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane,
Wilmslow, Cheshire,
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate)

Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioners website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely
Jonathan Francis
Information Risk & Data Governance Manager